SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA

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MAY 31, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 28 | INCLUDING BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

In interview to TOI, Navy chief Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi says sub deal with Germany is likely to take a few months, will involve full tech transfer, & discloses that Navy's deployment during Op Sindoor dealt a blow to Pak's economy as shipping cos avoided going to its ports, P 14

Marcia Lucas, who won an Oscar as editor of original 1977 'Star Wars' and was part of a group of women whose editing was essential to film's new Hollywood era, **dies**, at 80, P 17

In twin setbacks for Trump, District Judge Kathleen Williams reopens his $10bn lawsuit against IRS & another judge orders his name removed from facade and materials of Kennedy Center in two weeks, P 17

Star Indian duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stun top seeds & world No. 1 Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae of Korea in straight games, to storm into the final of Singapore Open Super 750 badminton tournament, P 18

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CLASH OF TITANS: IT'S RCB VS GUJARAT

DEFENDING CHAMPS TAKE ON HOME TEAM

The two table toppers after the group stage are deservingly back for the summit clash. Will Royal Challengers Bengaluru retain the coveted trophy? Or do Gujarat Titans have an ace up their sleeve? A delightful run fest is likely on Sunday. Enjoy the late evening show | FULL COVERAGE: Page 18

Venue: **Ahmedabad** | Temperature: Max: **39°C** | Min: **29°C** | Chances of Rain: **Nil** | Time: **7:30pm**

HEAD-TO-HEAD (2026): RCB vs GT: RCB leads 2-1 (In group stage, RCB beat GT by 5 wickets in Bengaluru and lost by 4 wickets in Ahmedabad. In their third face-off in this edition, RCB produced a thumping 92-run win in Qualifier 1)

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU

Previous Best: Winners (2025)

In This Edition: Topped group stage. Defeated GT in Qualifier 1

Form (Last 5 Games): WWWLW

Head Coach: Andy Flower

Captain: Rajat Patidar

Strengths: The defending champions are riding high on the backs of old-timers who have aged better than the finest of wines. Opener **Virat Kohli** (37 years, 600 runs, strike rate: 164) and pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar (36 years, 26 wkts) have re-established that old is gold. Kumar and Aussie veteran Josh Hazlewood have often struck hard in Powerplays to stymie oppositions. Captain Rajat Patidar back in six-hitting form — 41 sixes highest on either side — and fellow batters Devdutt Padikkal and Venkatesh Iyer in shotmaking nick. Add to that Krunal Pandya's all-round abilities and medium-pacer Rasikh Salam's variations, and it seems RCB have all bases covered

Worries: Would be interesting to see RCB's Plan B, if pacers don't get early breakthroughs. All-rounder Romario Shepherd hasn't clicked yet. Leg-break bowler Suyash Sharma too needs to strike more frequently

X-Factor: Big-hitting Tim David (strike rate: 194)

Do You Know? Despite bowling in Powerplays, Bhuvi has a miserly economy rate of 8

GUJARAT TITANS

Previous Best: Winners (2022)

In This Edition: Finished second in the group stage. Lost to RCB in Qualifier 1. Outplayed RR in Qualifier 2 by 7 wickets

Form (Last 5 Games): WLWLW

Head Coach: Ashish Nehra

Captain: Shubman Gill

Strengths: Balanced side that prefers solidity to flamboyance. Captain Shubman Gill (722, strike rate 164) and Sai Sudharshan (710, SR 160) have been admirably consistent and clinically effective. Along with keeper-batter Jos Buttler, the duo has provided the run cushion for their potent combo of pace and spin. GT has four bowlers – **Kagiso Rabada** (28 wkts), Rashid Khan (19 wkts), Mohd Siraj (18 wkts) and Prasidh Krishna (16 wkts) – among the top 12 wicket-takers this season. All-rounder Jason Holder has influenced outcomes both with bat and ball. Nerveless finisher Rahul Tewatia calms lower-order nerves. Will relish home ground advantage where GT has a 5-2 record this season

Worries: Dropped catches like millionaires in the group stage. The heavy dependance on the top 3 means the middle-order could be potentially vulnerable in case wickets fall early. Rashid could be low on confidence after the last-over thrashing against RR on Friday

X-Factor: Wily coach Nehra, who generally outthinks rivals

Do You Know?: GT do not have a single batter with a 170-plus strike rate

DK YES: Shivakumar to take oath as K'taka CM on June 3

Opts For Low-Key Ceremony, Citing Fuel Price Hike & Traffic Jam

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Bengaluru: After years of political manoeuvring and months of intense power tussle with Siddaramaiah, D K Shivakumar is finally set to realise his long-cherished dream of becoming Karnataka chief minister. He will be sworn in as the state's 25th CM at Glass House in Lok Bhavan at 3.30pm on June 3.

Party members said the date was finalised following consultations with Shivakumar's personal astrologer Bellur Dwarakanath. A firm believer in astrology, Shivakumar was advised to take oath during an auspicious period beginning around 4.05pm on that day.

The timing is also expected to facilitate the presence of leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Priyanka, party sources said, played a key role during the final stages of talks as the leadership transition gathered momentum.

▶Winds of change, P 2

Despite the political significance of the occasion, Congress has decided against a grand ceremony. "We had initially planned to hold the event on the grand steps of Vidhana Soudha with 15,000 to 20,000 people from different parts of the state in attendance, but decided against it considering people's sufferings due to inflation and fuel price hike," state Congress working president G C Chandrashekhar said.

"Shivakumar also insisted that it should be a simple event, reflecting the party's commitment to public service. Since it is a working day, we also wanted to avoid inconvenience to the public," he added. On Saturday, Shivakumar was unanimously elected leader of Congress Legislature Party at a meeting in Vidhana Soudha.

▶Cabinet formation, P 5

KANAKAPURA BANDE GETS TOP JOB

True to his nickname, the rock of Kanakapura has weathered many political storms. Now, a new challenge awaits

VOKKALIGA VOICE: D K Shivakumar is a Vokkaliga strongman and direct challenger to H D Kumaraswamy, JD(S) leader and possible NDA alliance CM face in 2028 election. Both hail from the same community

LOYAL LIEUTENANT: He has always stayed loyal to the party, particularly the Gandhis. During Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra, he oversaw media, logistics and engagement

RESOURCE MANAGER: He is known to be adept at mobilising resources for the party even for elections in other states. Also, an effective organiser, strengthening the party's cadre in the state

TROUBLESHOOTER: Time and again, Shivakumar and his brother D K Suresh have played effective political negotiators, helping the party stave off defections, and horse-trading

INFRA GURU: As deputy CM, he launched an aggressive infastructure push though some ambitious proposals, such as the skydeck, which remain in early stages

"Humbled to be selected as the CLP leader. Our govt will work with complete commitment to protect the interests of the great people of Karnataka and ensure all-round development

DK Shivakumar | CHIEF MINISTER - DESIGNATE

Illustration | Gireesh

DKS set to be India's richest CM

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Bengaluru: Karnataka's DK Shivakumar is set to take office as the wealthiest CM in the country. His total declared assets stand at Rs 1,413 crore.

Election affidavit-based analysis compiled by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) puts Shivakumar ahead of Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu (Rs 931 crore) and Tamil Nadu CM C Joseph Vijay (Rs 648 crore). This means that the three richest CMs in India are now all from the south. In the 2025 list put out by ADR, Naidu was followed by Arunachal Pradesh's CM Pema Khandu with Rs 332 crore and Karnataka's outgoing CM Siddaramaiah.

TOP 3 FROM SOUTH

CMs	Assets
D K Shivakumar (Karnataka)	₹1,413cr
Chandrababu Naidu (Andhra Pradesh)	₹931cr
C Joseph Vijay (TN)	₹648cr

Source: ADR

Shivakumar's total assets include Rs 1,140 crore in immovable property and Rs 273 crore in movable assets. His liabilities stand at Rs 265 crore. He has previously said his assets are declared transparently in his and his family members' names. "Many other functionaries in the state or country have companies which hold their assets; I am straightforward in my assets and liabilities," Shivakumar had said in an interview with **TOI**.

And unlike many politicians who consciously cultivate an image of austerity through simple attire, Shivakumar wears his wealth — quite literally. His wardrobe is a curated roll call of the world's most recognisable luxury brands: Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Prada, Burberry and Gucci sit alongside premium watches from Rolex and Cartier. He once arrived at a garbage segregation plant on Hosur Road with an LV scarf knotted at his neck — a detail that did not go unnoticed. Another personal touch is the customised 'dk' monogram in shirts and kurtas.

▶Land, inheritance, P 5

Indian crude basket price drops to $97.52

The price of the Indian oil basket fell below $100 a barrel on Friday for the first time since March 6, as global crude prices cooled by 11%. The cost of crude for Indian refiners is now $97.52. This is expected to reduce input costs but may not fully eliminate the under-recoveries on petrol, diesel and LPG, which are currently estimated at Rs 550 crore per day. The global benchmark Brent crude fell to $91.12 a barrel amid reports that the Strait of Hormuz could be reopened soon. P 14

After NEET and CBSE chaos, now glitch delays CUET; 3.7k to retake test

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Jatin Kumar

CUET-UG candidates' kin wait outside a centre in Delhi

New Delhi: After NEET-UG and CBSE chaos, CUET-UG 2026, the gateway to undergraduate admissions in universities across India, was thrown into disarray Saturday, after a glitch delayed exams by several hours at many centres. This forced National Testing Agency (NTA) to revise schedules, grant compensatory time and announce a retest for 3,700-odd candidates who left centres without taking the test.

The disruption hit the morning shift of the three-hour computer-based exam, with candidates at several centres reporting that despite completing entry formalities and being seated well before the scheduled 9am start, the test did not begin till 11.30am. Students remained inside while relatives outside were left without any clarity on the delay.

At some centres, the exam reportedly began four hours behind schedule. Notices about the delay were pasted outside centres after parents protested.

NTA's tech partner TCS said the glitch was fixed and students were given more time to write their test.

▶Tech partner, P 12

Levy on exports of petroleum products cut

Govt has cut special additional excise duty (SAED) on exports of diesel, petrol and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), effective June 1. SAED on petrol exports has been cut to Rs 1.5/litre from Rs 3, on diesel to Rs 13.5/l from Rs 16.5, and on ATF to Rs 9.5/l from Rs 16. Export levies were introduced on March 27 to disincentivise exports amid fuel crisis. TNN

6 kids, 3 women deported to B'desh

Authorities in West Bengal's Malda have deported three women and six children to Bangladesh after four days in a holding centre for illegal immigrants. Officials said they admitted that they were residents of Imampur village in Bangladesh and had entered illegally via Hili. P 14

Day it set 3-mth deadline for HCs, SC gave 15-mth reserved verdict

New Delhi: On the very day (Friday, May 29) Supreme Court laid down mandatory guidelines for high courts to pronounce judgments within three months of reserving them, an SC bench gave its verdict in a 42-year-old double murder case from Delhi after keeping it reserved for 15 months, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra**.

Two bodies were discovered within a span of three days in July 1984 at Civil Lines and Alipur in the national capital identified as the driver and helper of a truck. Suspects were arrested by Delhi Police within a fortnight of discovery of the bodies. They were accused of murdering the driver and the helper to steal their truck.

▶Commutes life term, P 10

In outreach to B'desh PM, India hails dad's '71 address

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: India on Saturday recalled the historic radio broadcast of former Bangladesh President Zia-ur-Rahman, in which he, invoking Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, proclaimed the country's independence and called upon the people to resist the Pakistan army amid a military crackdown marked by widespread killings and mass atrocities.

On the occasion of Zia's 45th death anniversary, India remembered Zia, father of current PM Tarique Rahman, and his famous radio address of March 1971, describing him as one of the bravest sons of the nation.

"As the people of Bangladesh gather today in memory of one of their nation's bravest sons — Shaheed President Zia-ur-Rahman, Bir Uttam — we recall his famous radio address of March 1971, which electrified the masses, inspired them on a path of resistance against oppression and led to national liberation," said the Indian High Commission in Dhaka in a message.

"Today, as then, India stands shoulder to shoulder with the people of Bangladesh in a saga of shared sacrifices and a common journey towards progress and prosperity," added the message.

As Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the independence of Bangladesh, resistance began in Chittagong city and many other areas. On behalf of Bangabandhu, Maj Zia-ur-Rahman, at 7:45pm on March 27, made a radio broadcast from Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra in Kalurghat, north of Chittagong city.

9 men held for 'planning terror attacks' in Delhi, 4 other states

New Delhi: Police in Delhi have arrested nine men who were allegedly planning to commit terrorist activities in Delhi and four other states. Police officers said the men were connected to ISI handlers Shahzad Bhatti and Munna Jhingada in Pakistan. The accused, police said, were motivated by their handlers to target nuclear plants, airports, railway stations and power plants.

They were allegedly recruited by one Huzaifa, who is absconding, and tasked with carrying out grenade attacks and firing on vital installations, security establishments and police personnel in Delhi and Mumbai, police said. TNN

▶Recruiting youth, P 6

Vinesh's defiant comeback ends in heartbreak amid drama, disputes

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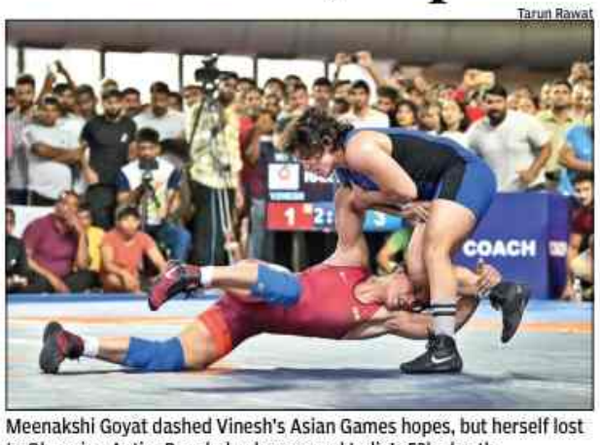

Tarun Rawat

Meenakshi Goyat dashed Vinesh's Asian Games hopes, but herself lost to Olympian Antim Panghal, who secured India's 53kg berth

New Delhi: "I will come back soon, see you then." These words, dripping with defiance, were delivered with a pointed finger towards the wrestling mat and in the direction of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) brass and its president, Sanjay Singh. It summed up the final act in the saga that is the Vinesh Phogat comeback on an emotionally sapping Saturday. More is to come, she has promised.

Moments earlier, Vinesh's bid to force her way back into India's Asian Games squad had ended in disappointment. Yet, as she walked away from the mat at Indira Gandhi Stadium, the two-time World Championships medallist and three-time Olympian made it clear that her fight for dignity was far from over.

"The entire system was on one side, and my team and I were on the other side. It's a one-sided fight. This isn't the first time I'm losing, and we learn only by losing, but when the system stands against you, and yet you have the courage to fight, then I see myself as a winner," she would say later.

▶Attempting comeback, P 18

Google fined ₹30L in trademark case

Delhi HC ordered Google to pay Rs 30 lakh damages to Hindware after finding that Google Ads let rivals bid on the latter's trademarks as keywords, diverting customers. It called this unfair advantage under Trademarks Act, barred such keywords, and awarded litigation costs. P 6

NMC plans 10-year limit to finish MBBS

NMC has proposed amending GMER 2023 to extend the maximum MBBS completion period from 9 to 10 years. The four-attempt limit for First Professional exams remains. It aims to help students delayed by setbacks. P 6

More married women take part in household decisions on health, trips

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MALE STERILISATION STILL LOW

- Use of family planing methods by married women (15-49 years) **rises to 69.1% from 66.7% in NFHS-5**
- **Female sterilisation stands at 36.5%, male sterilisation 0.5%,** NFHS-6 finds. In previous survey, it was **37.9% for women and 0.3% for men**
- Female sterilisation higher in **rural areas (38.1%) compared to urban areas (32.6%).** Male sterilisation equally low in rural and urban areas at 0.5% and 0.4%, respectively
- **69.6% married women in urban areas and 68.9% women in rural areas** using some form of family planning

New Delhi: The National Family Health Survey-6 (2023-24) has shown that participation of married women in household decision-making has increased over the years, with data revealing that 89% were involved in decisions about their own healthcare, major household purchases and visits to family and relatives.

The participation of married women (15-49 years) in these three household decisions was high across both rural and urban areas — 88% and 91.4%, respectively. The figure has been rising over successive NFHS rounds. It was 84% in (2015-16), 88.7% in 2019-21 and 89% in the latest survey. It also came through that the percentage of women having a bank or savings account that they themselves use has risen from 78.6% in the previous survey to 89% in the 2023-24 survey.

But, the data also brings into focus the challenges. For instance, at the time of the survey, the percentage of women who had worked in the last 12 months and were paid in cash stood at just 30.8%. The figure was even lower at 25.4% in NFHS-5. In 2023-24, this percentage for women was 29.8% in urban areas and 31.2% in rural areas.

▶Female sterilisation, P 12

'DHOOLANDHAR' SWEEPS RAJASTHAN

PTI

A massive dust storm barrelled through parts of Rajasthan Saturday, plunging many towns into darkness around 2pm. Motorists turned on headlights while pedestrians scrambled for cover against the dust clouds. Triggered by a western disturbance, the storm swept through Churu, Bikaner (in pic), Hanumangarh, Sri Ganganagar, Nagaur, Didwana-Kuchaman, Alwar and Sikar districts, bringing much-needed relief from the heat. Jaipur witnessed strong winds followed by showers. Rain also lashed parts of Haryana and Punjab

Cloud over Surya? T20I skipper not in Asiad long list

The Indian cricket board (BCCI) may be preparing a succession plan for the T20I team. Current captain Suryakumar Yadav, who led India to a T20 World Cup title in March, doesn't feature in the 30-man long list given to IOA for the Asian Games, due to be held in Japan's Aichi-Nagoya from Sept 19 to Oct 4, reports Arani Basu. Teen sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who many believe is ready for a Team India call-up, is part of the list.

The selectors are likely to take a call on Surya's future next week when they pick the T20I and ODI teams for India's tour of Ireland and England in June-July. Surya has been suffering a prolonged lean patch. P 19

Bangalore Times

IT'S THE FINALS!

ONE TROPHY, TWO DREAMS.... AND A CITY ON ALERT

NO PUBLIC SCREENINGS, NO VICTORY LAPS, BENGALURU'S CITIZENS STRICTLY FINAL ADVISORY

SHOULD BE

BENGALURU IS TALKING ABOUT

'RCB HAS ALWAYS BEEN A REFLECTION OF BENGALURU'

'RCB's greatest strength has always been its fans. That's why we've always gone to great lengths to give supporters genuine access to the team'

LUCKY JERSEYS, FIXED SEATS AND SILENT HOMES:

Bengaluru's cricket fans swear by their match-day rituals

Wielding the matchless & helping more

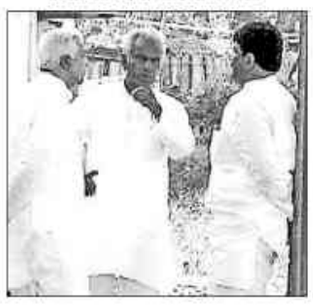
Lucky jersey tradition

Same table, same cards, same people

A four-decade climb through party ranks has taken DK Shivakumar from Youth Congress to the chief minister's office — the highpoint of his career

Wins as a candidate from Kanakapura, after Sathanur is relegated to history due to delimitation

Instrumental in ensuring Cong victory, along with Siddaramaiah, but is told to wait after a power-sharing agreement is hammered out behind closed doors



EARLY 1980s Joins student politics while studying at Renukacharya College in Bengaluru

1962 Doddalahalli Kempegowda Shivakumar is born in Dodda Alahalli village near Kanakapura in present-day Bengaluru South district. Hails from the influential Vokkaliga community

1983 Joins Indian Youth Congress and is elected general secretary for Karnataka

1985 Loses to former PM HD Deve Gowda by a small margin as the Congress candidate. Start of a long-drawn political rivalry between the two families

1989 Contests as an independent from Sathanur and wins after Congress denies him ticket at age 27

1991 Becomes junior minister for prisons and home guards for the first time in CM S Bangarappa's govt

1994 Wins as an independent, once again from Sathanur, gets close to senior Congress leader SM Krishna and becomes his right-hand man

1999 Wins his third straight election, this time on a Cong ticket, by defeating HD Kumaraswamy. Becomes a cabinet minister — initially gets the cooperation portfolio, later urban development

2004 Wins again, but remains loyal to Congress and does not jump ship to either JD(S) or later to BJP to be part of a coalition govt

2008 Wins again, but kept out of Siddaramaiah govt, initially on corruption allegations, but later inducted following intervention by the party high command

2013 Earns sobriquet of troubleshooter by safely housing Gujarat Cong legislators during RS elections to re-elect former AICC president and Sonia Gandhi confidant Ahmed Patel

2017 Arrested on charges of money laundering and spends 50 days in jail before securing bail. Sonia and Rahul Gandhi visit him. Takes a vow to not shave his beard till people bless him with political power

2018 Becomes an MLA and driver of Cong alliance with JD(S). Gets portfolio of water resources and medical education

2019 ED raids his residence soon after the Rajya Sabha elections

2020 Launches Mekedatu Padayatra, violating Covid-19 protocols but garners massive support in south Karnataka on the Cauvery issue

2022 Becomes president of Karnataka Pradesh Cong Committee (KPCC) and launches himself as a CM contender

2023 DK SHIVAKUMAR ACHIEVES HIS DREAM OF BECOMING CM

2024 In late Dec, gives an interview spelling out the power-sharing agreement, but says he will wait for the party high command to take a call

2026

MARRIED TO USHA SHIVAKUMAR

THE COUPLE HAS THREE CHILDREN — TWO DAUGHTERS AND A SON

ELDER BROTHER OF DK SURESH, A TWO-TIME CONG MP FROM BENGALURU RURAL CONSTITUENCY

From video parlour to pre-eminent post in Vidhana Soudha, the rise of Shivakumar

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Bengaluru: When Doddalahalli Kempegowda (DK) Shivakumar, 64, walked out of Delhi's Tihar Jail on the rain-soaked night of Oct 23, 2019, Congress workers waiting outside were visibly surprised. The Kanakapura strongman, known for his spotless white attire and clean-shaven appearance, stepped into the dim streetlights wearing something entirely unfamiliar — a thick salt-and-pepper beard.

After 50 days in prison following his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate, he looked visibly worn out, but those close to him knew the beard was no accident. In his cell, Shivakumar had made a vow: The razor would not touch his face until he became Karnataka chief minister.

On Saturday, seven years on, as Congress Legislature Party formally endorsed him as Siddaramaiah's successor, that vow moved closer to fulfilment. He had scaled the summit of Karnataka politics.

Critics linked his nickname 'Kanakapura Bande' to quarrying interests. Supporters used it to describe his ability to withstand tax raids and legal battles

Long before he became one of the state's most powerful politicians, Shivakumar's instincts were honed in a small video parlour he ran during the VHS boom of the 1980s. Located in what is now Bengaluru South district, the shop became more than a movie rental outlet. Youngsters gathered there, businessmen dropped in for conversations, and aspiring political workers lingered. He quickly learned that politics was built on relationships, obligations and the ability to remember people.

Those instincts followed him to National College in Basavanagudi, where he earned a reputation as a talented athlete and aggressive student leader. During a college sports meet, he reportedly won the 100-metre sprint but allowed a rival serving as sports secretary to be declared winner to avoid unnecessary hostility. Later, when denied an opportunity to contest a student election, he backed a friend, Krishna Deshpande, organised the campaign from behind the scenes and secured victory without appearing on the ballot.

Strategic alliances

Unlike many Congressmen shaped by ideology, Shivakumar's politics evolved through local influence, organisation and strategic alliances. As he entered public life, he became part of the rough-and-tumble political culture of the Old Mysuru region.

He arrived on the political scene early. In 1985, at just 23, he audaciously challenged veteran JD(S) supremo HD Deve Gowda in Sathanur. He lost, but the contest established him as a fearless contender and marked the beginning of a rivalry that still defines Vokkaliga politics. By his late twenties, Shivakumar was MLA and began building a political career that would span more than three decades. Alongside his younger brother and former Bengaluru Rural MP DK Suresh, he transformed Kanakapura into an impregnable Congress bastion through educational institutions, cooperative bodies and caste networks. His business interests in the region's lucrative granite and quarrying sector earned him the nickname 'Kanakapura Bande' (rock of Kanakapura).

The feud with the Deve Gowda family intensified as his influence grew. Fourteen years after his first defeat, he earned the 'giant killer' tag by defeating HD Kumaraswamy in Sathanur. He followed it with another significant victory in 2004, when Congress candidate Tejaswini Gowda defeated Deve Gowda in Kanakapura, a campaign widely associated with Shivakumar's organisational heft.

Independent machine

Yet his rise was not confined to regional battles. Unlike many state politicians who depend on Delhi for relevance, he built an independent political machine that Congress' high command repeatedly turned to during crises. In 2002, he played a key role in protecting the Vilasrao Deshmukh govt in Maharashtra by hosting vulnerable MLAs in Bengaluru resorts ahead of a trust vote.

The operation that elevated him nationally came during the 2017 Rajya Sabha election involving Congress strategist Ahmed Patel. With BJP aggressively pursuing defections in Gujarat, Shivakumar shifted Congress MLAs to a Bengaluru resort and personally supervised the operation. Patel narrowly won, and Shivakumar emerged as one of the Gandhi family's most trusted political managers, earning the tag of troubleshooter.

File picture

CHANGING GEARS: Chief minister-designate DK Shivakumar

That operation may have come at a cost. In 2017, there were income-tax raids, and in 2019, he was arrested by Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case. Yet, Shivakumar turned prison into political capital. Sonia Gandhi's visit during his incarceration deeply moved him, and among party workers, he emerged as a political martyr. When he returned to Bengaluru on bail, thousands lined roads and showered his convoy with flowers. He also returned with the beard that would become his defining political symbol. Rahul Gandhi reportedly advised him to keep it, saying it gave him the appearance of one who had weathered a political storm.

The rivalry with the Deve Gowda family took another turn in 2018 when a fractured mandate forced an uneasy coalition. Demonstrating political pragmatism, Shivakumar protected Congress MLAs and helped install Kumaraswamy as chief minister. The partners were dubbed 'Jodetthu' (pair of bullocks) by the media. The arrangement collapsed within a year, reviving the rivalry.

Organisational powerhouse

During the 2022 Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra, Shivakumar cemented his reputation as an organisational powerhouse. Tasked with managing the Karnataka leg, he personally oversaw everything from high-tech media logistics to local community engagement across districts.

His politics is an unusual blend of organisational aggression and deep spirituality. His strongest asset is a singular memory for names, loyalties and betrayals

But Shivakumar's real rise began when he undertook the Mekedatu Padayatra in 2022, ahead of the assembly polls the following year, when Karnataka Congress was at rock bottom. Defying Covid restrictions imposed by the BJP govt, he led a 139km march demanding the implementation of the reservoir project. Videos of an exhausted Shivakumar struggling through the march circulated widely. Critics mocked the effort, but Congress workers saw a leader willing to physically push himself for a cause. The march helped revive not only his image but also restored momentum within the party.

When Congress came to office in 2023, Shivakumar faced his biggest political test. Despite leading the organisation and playing a central role in the victory, the high command chose Siddaramaiah for the chief minister's post. He accepted the deputy chief ministership along with key portfolios, including Bengaluru development and water resources. He then turned his focus to Bengaluru.

In many ways, that ambition reflected the influence of his mentor, SM Krishna, whose administrative style and urban vision had left a lasting impression on him. The relationship later acquired a personal dimension when his eldest daughter married Krishna's grandson and son of late Cafe Coffee Day founder, VG Siddhartha.

In Bengaluru, he launched an aggressive infrastructure push involving road widening, flyovers, sewage upgrades and mobility projects. Large parts of the city were turned into work zones, drawing both criticism and praise.

Some of his most ambitious proposals, including an underground tunnel road network and the Bengaluru Skydeck project, remain in planning or approval stages. Critics have dismissed them as expensive or impractical, while Shivakumar has continued to argue that Bengaluru's transformation will define Karnataka's political future. "Right now, Bengaluru looks like a battlefield, battered by sewage pipeline works and road resurfacing. But by the end of Shivakumar's tenure, the city could emerge completely transformed," said an urban infrastructure expert who described him as Bengaluru's 'Infrastructure Czar'.

Self-made & transparent

Supporters see him as a self-made politician-businessman who never attempted to disguise his rise or wealth. Unlike traditional netas who project austerity, Shivakumar is known for designer clothing, luxury watches and high-end living. Yet he switches easily to rustic Kannada and connects to rural audiences with his farming background.

Shivakumar openly acknowledges his reliance on astrology and depends on his adviser Bellur Dwarakanath for timing key political decisions. On Saturday, as the doors of Vidhana Soudha opened for Karnataka's next CM, the long wait was at its end. Whether the razor finally touches the beard that became the symbol of that journey may now depend only on the oath-taking ceremony next week.

Want you to help make Rahul PM, Siddaramaiah told

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TOI

LIFE GOES ON: Siddaramaiah and KC Venugopal at the CLP meeting on Saturday

Bengaluru: Congress party high command used Saturday's legislature party (CLP) meeting at Vidhana Soudha, where DK Shivakumar was chosen as the next CM, to send the message that outgoing CM Siddaramaiah's political innings is far from over.

At a subdued CLP meeting, KC Venugopal, Congress general secretary (organisation), reassured Siddaramaiah's supporters that the 77-year-old would continue to play a key role in both state and national politics.

Addressing legislators and MPs, Venugopal praised Siddaramaiah's contribution to the state and told him: "We will not allow you to rest. Congress needs your services in Karnataka and at the national level. You all must think about 2029. We all need Siddaramaiah in our team to make Rahul Gandhi, our leader, prime minister."

Legislators present said Siddaramaiah appeared emotional while reflecting on his tenure. He highlighted the implementation of the guarantee schemes and their impact on people in the state. "He said BJP at the Centre had treated Karnataka shabbily and that Congress under his governance had managed the financial burden with prudence," an MP said.

The CLP adopted a resolution thanking Siddaramaiah for his guidance during his two terms as CM from 2013 to 2018 and from 2023 to 2026. The resolution credited him with welfare programmes, social justice measures, administrative reforms, and development initiatives that helped strengthen the party's support base.

The process of selecting the new CLP leader began with Siddaramaiah moving a one-line resolution authorising the party high command to choose his successor. The proposal, seconded by home minister G Parameshwara, was unanimously approved.

After a brief consultation involving Siddaramaiah, Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala, Congress general secretary in charge of Karnataka, Shivakumar's name was formally announced.

Following his election, Shivakumar moved a resolution appreciating Siddaramaiah's service and appealed for unity. "He said that the party needs to work towards ensuring Congress return to the helm in 2028 and urged every legislator to lend their full support under his tenure," a legislator said.

Six absent from CLP meeting

Six MLAs, including speaker UT Khader and Haj minister Rahim Khan, were absent from the CLP meeting. While Khader had to stay away because of his constitutional position, Rahim Khan was unable to attend for personal reasons. HV Venkatesh, who represents Pavagada, did not attend due to the death of his father Venkatramanappa, a seasoned politician. Others who were absent were Prakash Koliwad, JT Patil and Raju Kage.

Shivakumar seeks Ajjaiah's blessings

Hours before the meeting, CM-designate DK Shivakumar visited the Nagarabhavi branch of Ajjaiah Mutt and offered prayers. Shivakumar rushed to the mutt soon after meeting the Governor and was accompanied by his wife Usha and brother DK Suresh. A long-time devotee of Ajjaiah, Shivakumar is believed to share a close spiritual bond with the seer. Sources say Ajjaiah, who is said to have predicted Shivakumar's rise, advised him to carefully weigh his decisions after taking office.

Court clears DKS for foreign travel

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Bengaluru: In a huge relief in a tax evasion case for chief-minister designate DK Shivakumar, a Bengaluru special court has allowed him to travel abroad for the next two years.

TAX EVASION CASE

In a May 15 order, an additional chief judicial magistrate court relaxed a bail condition that required prior court approval for foreign travel and permitted Shivakumar to visit the US, UK, European countries, Australia, Russia and Arab nations till May 2028. The permission covers most of his remaining tenure as CM.

The court noted that Shivakumar, who was deputy CM when he filed the application, may need to travel abroad for both business and official duties related to water resources and Bengaluru development portfolios. It found reasons cited by him to be genuine and bona fide.

The prosecution argued that granting such blanket permission would dilute bail conditions, but Shivakumar's counsel contended that seeking permission for each visit was impractical given the scale of his official engagements. The defence also pointed out that visa processing could take months and that repeated applications would burden both the accused and the court.

The court accepted these arguments, noting that proceedings in the case are currently stayed by the Supreme Court. It also cited the principle of parity, observing that another accused had earlier been granted similar relief and that Shivakumar himself had received permission for a year in Aug 2024. The court directed Shivakumar to inform the ED of his travel plans and appear before the court when required.

The income tax department filed a criminal case against Shivakumar and others for alleged tax evasion after more than Rs 12 crore in cash was allegedly seized during raids in 2017. On Sept 15, 2018, a special court granted bail to Shivakumar, imposing several conditions, including obtaining court permission to travel abroad.

Debate over cabinet age puts veterans on edge

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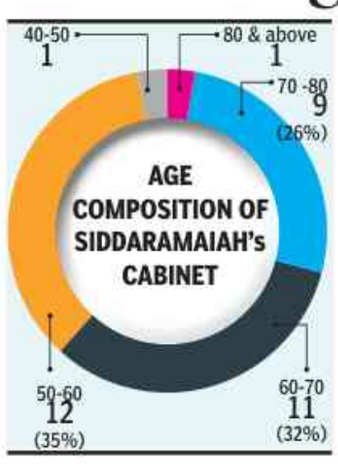
Bengaluru: A raging debate over age and succession planning of chief minister-designate DK Shivakumar's cabinet has surfaced within Congress, with younger legislators seeking greater representation and seniors arguing for continuity.

At the heart of the discussion is whether Shivakumar will opt for a generational shift or continue to rely on veterans who dominated Siddaramaiah's council of ministers. Congress' high command is reportedly advocating a Kerala-style model that blends experience with youngsters.

Under Siddaramaiah, the average age of ministers was 64-65 years. Of the 34 ministers, 21 were above 60 years, including nine in the 70-80 age group.



"Since the high command wants to nurture second-line leaders, there is a strong push to form a relatively younger cabinet with those in the 40-60 years group," said a KPCC office-bearer. "This will not only give enough opportunity for youngsters to learn from veterans but also form a future leadership group of the party."

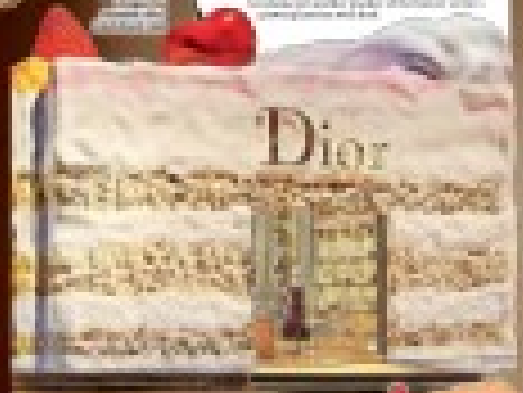
Supporters of the move point to Kerala's cabinet to emphasise their point. "Kerala presents a more balanced age distribution," one functionary said. "The state has only two ministers above 70 years, while six are below 50, including representation from the 30-40 and 40-50 age groups. The inclusion of younger legislators and first-time MLAs in Kerala has reinforced the perception that Congress is consciously investing in second-line leadership."

An AICC member said adopting a similar benchmark in Karnataka could mean dropping 12-13 ministers aged between 70 and 81 years while increasing representation for legislators in the 40-50 age group.

However, seniors argue Karnataka's politics differ from Kerala's. "Unlike Kerala's cadre-driven political culture, Karnataka's governance model continues to depend heavily on senior caste functionaries and regional strongmen. Seniority and social equations remain central to cabinet formation," said an MLA from Kalyana Karnataka.

An MLA from the Malnad region said: "Unless younger faces are gradually empowered, the party cannot confront a serious succession crisis in the next decade, especially when BJP is already picking young members in several other states."

Food is luxury's new muse



Inside luxury's skeleton watch revival

WINDOW TO THE WORLD

FASHION'S NEWEST ICON? A HUNGRY CATERPILLAR

Greenery has become luxury real estate's newest status symbol

POV

Road rage escalates into knife attack on II PU student

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: City police have launched a manhunt for three youngsters who stabbed and injured a 17-year-old II PU student, working as a part-time bike-taxi captain, during a road-rage incident at RR Nagar, southwest Bengaluru.

The victim is recovering in hospital. According to the police complaint filed by his friend, the fight broke out when one of the miscreants shouted at the victim and his friends for blocking his path on Global Village Road, Pattanagere Main Road, on the night of May 27. According to the complainant, he and his friends regularly visited a fruit juice shop on Global Village Road. At 8pm on May 27, four of them were riding near the shop when a youngster riding a motorbike with a child honked repeatedly, asking the victim to give way. The student, who was riding a gearless scooter, did give way but the motorist allegedly threw a tantrum over the obstruction.

Soon, an argument broke out and the youngster rode away, only to return with another youth a few minutes later.

"They took the ignition key from the victim and abused him. The youths then forced him to ride pillion and took him towards a nearby bar. The argument continued and the duo allegedly tried to beat up the student with a wooden log. Soon, the victim's uncle arrived at the spot and chased away the youths," the complainant stated, adding, "We continued to ride. However, a little ahead, the same youths, along with another person, blocked our way. Pulling the victim to the roadside, they stabbed him with a knife on the chest, neck, hands, and back before fleeing."

Police said they are yet to arrest the accused.

Case against 5 for beating dog to death

Police booked a criminal case against five unidentified persons, including a woman, for allegedly beating a stray dog to death behind Radiant Lake View Apartment, Medahalli, east Bengaluru, on May 24.

The complaint was filed by an apartment occupant, Snehalatha, who witnessed the attack and who regularly feeds strays. "Around 9.30pm on May 24, I was feeding the animals when I heard a dog barking loudly in pain, followed by human voices. I rushed to the spot and saw a woman shouting that the dog was a mad one and was biting her. Others — four or so men— beat up the mongrel with sticks and stones. Then, they threw the animal's body in a vacant site and walked away. With the help of other flat occupants, I shifted the dog's body to a veterinary hospital in Domlur," her complaint read.

An investigating officer said CCTV footage from the apartment and nearby buildings has been collected to identify the accused.

ALL EYES ON NEW CM: TUNNEL ROADS, SKYDECKS, SMOOTH TRAFFIC ... DREAMS SOLD, EXECUTION DUE

Shivakumar has promised a new Bengaluru. Will he deliver now?

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Bengaluru: Three years ago, when DK Shivakumar invited citizens to share ideas for his ambitious 'Brand Bengaluru' vision, the response was overwhelming: Nearly 70,000 suggestions poured in.

The DCM spoke of transformative projects: tunnel roads to decongest traffic, double-decker flyovers to improve mobility and a towering skydeck that would redefine the city's skyline.

Yet, as those grand plans took shape on paper, Bengalureans continued to navigate pothole-ridden roads, traffic snarls, flooding hotspots and crumbling civic infrastructure. Now, as Shivakumar gets ready to step into the chief minister's office, the city is watching more closely than ever before.

For many residents, his elevation marks a moment of opportunity. Few leaders in recent years have been as closely associated with Bengaluru's development agenda as Shivakumar. As the minister overseeing the city's key agencies, from GBA and BDA to BWSSB, BMRDA and BMRCL, he became the political face of several high-profile projects and governance reforms.

The question now is simple: Will Bengaluru finally see execution match ambition?

Expectations are high because Shivakumar enters the CM's office with a deep understanding of the city's governance challenges. Having worked closely with multiple civic agencies, he is familiar with bureaucratic hurdles that often slow down projects.

Supporters believe this knowledge could translate into faster approvals, better coordination and quicker implementation of long-pending works. Among his most significant initiatives was the creation of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) framework and the proposal to split Bengaluru into multiple corporations , a major governance overhaul aimed at improving administration in one of India's fastest-growing metropolitan regions.

Many civic observers feel his promotion to the state's top post could also provide a boost to several projects already in the pipeline.

"There is no other politician who understands the value of Bengaluru than Shivakumar. Maybe, things could get better for the state capital, maybe the tunnel road could become reality now," a retired additional chief secretary said. But optimism is tempered by caution. For residents, the city's most pressing concerns remain strikingly familiar: flooded roads during monsoon showers, worsening traffic congestion, poor road quality, broken footpaths and inadequate civic maintenance.

"Announcements have never been Bengaluru's problem. Execution has," is a sentiment frequently echoed in civic circles.

Another key question is whether the new CM will move ahead with elections to Greater Bengaluru Authority and fully operationalise the governance reforms that were envisioned as part of the city's restructuring. As CM, Shivakumar will also have to balance statewide governance, welfare commitments and political priorities, limiting the amount of time he can devote exclusively to Bengaluru.

Pics: TOI

> DK Shivakumar already had considerable autonomy as DCM overseeing Bengaluru development, and as CM, he would have even greater room to execute priorities linked to the city. Politically, it also becomes imperative for him to show visible progress in Bengaluru before the 2028 elections if he is expected to lead the party. A key challenge would be balancing governance priorities with political management and internal contradictions while ensuring Bengaluru receives sustained attention
>
> **Sandeep Shastry** | POLITICAL ANALYST

> Much depends on whether DK Shivakumar retains the Bengaluru development portfolio as CM. If he does, one can expect greater momentum for projects and reforms he has already envisioned for the city. One important example is GBA and the proposal for multiple corporations, which would not have moved without his drive. Once he believes something needs to be done, he usually pursues it strongly, though balancing statewide responsibilities will also be crucial
>
> **Ravichandar V** | CIVIC EXPERT

> As Bengaluru development minister, DK Shivakumar initiated several projects that did not fully move forward, partly due to lack of support and consensus. As CM, he may now have greater authority to implement them. Bengaluru and the IT sector remain closely linked to Karnataka's future, and the city requires a stronger focus on growth, jobs and infrastructure. However, projects such as tunnel roads must be backed by expert studies and better execution, with stronger coordination to minimise inconvenience to citizens
>
> **TV Mohandas Pai** | CHAIRMAN, AARIN CAPITAL, FORMER INFOSYS CFO

> DK Shivakumar becoming the CM could positively impact Bengaluru as he has already driven key reforms such as BBMP restructuring and formation of GBA over the last three years. Major infrastructure projects like Bengaluru Business Corridor, Peripheral Ring Road and tunnel roads could gain momentum. The only concern is if he will be able to devote the same level of focus to Bengaluru while balancing tatewide responsibilities
>
> **Priyanka D** | TECHIE AND CITY ENTHUSIAST

> DK Shivakumar may be more approachable as CM and open to engaging with citizen groups, particularly on education issues. While there is some hope that discussions around public education and school closures may receive greater attention, major policy shifts may still remain difficult given larger institutional and economic pressures. At the same time, there are concerns that large infrastructure projects such as tunnel roads could gather pace despite opposition, particularly over fears of environmental impact and loss of public spaces
>
> **Aishwarya CM** | VP, ALL INDIA SAVE EDUCATION COMMITTEE (AISEC), KARNATAKA

WHAT NEEDS URGENT ATTENTION?

- Pothole-free roads
- Dust-free localities
- Street corruption
- Expediting Ejipura flyover, Dommasandra flyover and RR Nagar flyover
- Completing road widening between Varthur and Gunjur
- Making Bengaluru suburban rail project a reality
- Starting work on Peripheral Ring Road (Bengaluru Business Corridor)

No CM, no grand launch: Schools in Karnataka set to reopen Monday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: This year, there will be no state-level school reopening programme. In the absence of both the CM and school education minister, schools across the state will mark the start of the academic year through events organised at local level, with officials, teachers and community representatives participating.

The decision marks a departure from the large-scale celebrations that had been planned in previous years.

There will be no grand inauguration, no statewide address to students and parents, and no centrally coordinated event linking schools across Karnataka. The CM was to address a mega parent-teacher meeting, which was to be held simultaneously in schools across the state and telecast everywhere through video conference. The CM was also to formally launch the Karnataka Public School scheme by laying the foundation for a KPS in Shivamogga. Now, the plan is to hold the events in each school under the leadership of local education department officials, district commissioners or local community, based on their availability.

Book distribution

The department of school education and literacy said uniform and book distribution is on track and will be completed by this week.

"We had a review meeting Saturday. The first set of uniform has been delivered to 90% of the schools. Among others, 90% has been dispatched from factories. The delivery will be assured by June first week," said Suralkar Vikas Kishor, commissioner, department of school education.

"In the case of books, there are 1,000-plus titles; 80% of them have been delivered. Our books are divided into two parts, as per the two terms. The delivery of the first part of the remaining books is assured by June 5. The first few days will be a bridge programme called Setubandha, which will require no books," he added.

"Most of us are planning a fun-filled day, especially for early learners. There will be a lot of play, dance, songs, flowers and sweets. But we have been hearing that nursery admission has collapsed in private schools. This is because of the playschools mushrooming and the birth rate falling. While this has been the trend in recent years, this time the fall has been drastic," said D Sashi Kumar, secretary, Association of Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools of Karnataka.

Non-borrower can't be forced for pre-deposit payment: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a significant ruling, the high court held that a person who is not a borrower cannot be compelled to make a pre-deposit to file an appeal under SARFAESI Act against an order affecting his or her rights.

A division bench of Justices Suraj Govindaraj and K Manmadha Rao clarified that the mandatory pre-deposit requirement under Section 18 of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act applies only to borrowers and not to third parties aggrieved by an order.

The court passed the ruling while hearing a petition filed by Bengaluru-based Ittiam Systems Pvt Ltd, which claimed to be a long-standing tenant in three office units and five car parking spaces in Consulate-1 building on Richmond Road in central business district.

According to the company, it had been occupying the premises as a tenant since 2001. The property was later acquired by Hiro Uttamchandani, who availed a loan from Bharath Cooperative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd. After he defaulted on repayment, the bank initiated recovery proceedings under SARFAESI Act and obtained orders to take physical possession of the property.

Claiming that its tenancy rights would be affected, Ittiam Systems approached Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT). However, its plea was rejected.

The company then challenged the DRT order before Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT), Chennai. While entertaining the appeal, DRAT directed the company to deposit over Rs 3.3 crore (25% of the bank's demand) as a pre-condition for hearing the appeal.

Ittiam Systems challenged this direction before high court, arguing that it was merely a tenant and not the borrower who had taken the loan. Therefore, it could not be asked to make the statutory pre-deposit required of borrowers.

Accepting the contention, the high court examined the provisions of SARFAESI Act and held that the obligation to make a pre-deposit is restricted to borrowers alone.

The bench observed that an appeal under Section 18 can be filed not only by a borrower but also by "any person aggrieved" by an order passed under Section 17 of the Act. However, the requirement of depositing a portion of the outstanding debt before filing an appeal applies exclusively to borrowers.

Setting aside DRAT's order, the high court directed the appellate tribunal to hear Ittiam Systems' appeal on merits without insisting on any pre-deposit and dispose of the matter within eight weeks.

Fire in school auditorium, no casualties

Bengaluru: A fire broke out in the auditorium of a private school in Sir M Visvesvaraya Layout, west Bengaluru, Saturday morning. There were no casualties.

Police said a short circuit caused the fire and hundreds of fibre materials/mats placed in the auditorium were gutted.

The school was closed and there was no one inside the building except for security personnel. "The guards called the police control room and one fire tender doused the flames. Since fibre and plastic materials were gutted, thick smoke emitted from the auditorium and was visible for a long distance," a police officer said

TOI

IN FLAMES: A short circuit caused the fire and hundreds of fibre materials/mats in the auditorium were gutted

Residents clean up tech park's backyard

TOI

Over 100 volunteers took part in the cleanliness drive and collected 25-30 bags of waste from parks, roadsides near Manyata Tech Park

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Bengaluru: Discarded water bottles and cigarette packets, mostly thrown by techies from the adjoining tech park during post-lunch strolls, have long been a concern for residents of Manyata Residency Layout. On Saturday, they joined hands with civic authorities and volunteer groups for a three-hour clean-up drive ahead of World Environment Day.

@MANYATA

The drive, held from 6am to 9am, saw participation of around 100 volunteers including residents, members from Rotary Manyata, 15–20 students from North Bengaluru High School and GBA personnel. Around 25–30 bags of waste were collected from parks, roadsides and other identified hotspots within the layout.

Residents said majority of waste collected was single-use plastics, water bottles, cigarette packets and food packaging, which are routinely found strewn across public spaces in the area.

The clean-up drive brought together resident welfare association, Rotary Manyata, Rotaract Club of Warriors, Rotaract Club of Silicon City College and North City Corporation personnel.

An environmental awareness session was conducted for students from economically weaker backgrounds, focusing on plastic waste management and sustainable practices. GBA supported the drive by deploying personnel and vehicles for waste collection, transport and disposal.

Participants said the initiative not only improved cleanliness in the neighbourhood but also highlighted the need for stronger coordination between residential communities, civic agencies and corporate establishments to address Bengaluru's growing plastic waste challenge.

Ravi Kumar V, resident and member of Manyata RWA, said: "While this clean-up helped restore the neighbourhood, it also highlighted the scale of plastic waste problem we face every day. A substantial portion of the litter appears to come from the large number of people commuting to and from the neighbouring tech park. We urge corporate establishments to actively educate their workforce on civic hygiene, responsible plastic use and proper waste disposal so that the burden of maintaining public spaces does not fall solely on residents and civic agencies."

KR Pura, Whitefield roads to be closed next week

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pic for representation

DIVERSION: Commuters have been advised to use KR Pura cable-stayed bridge to reach ITI Colony, Ramamurthy Nagar, ITPL, Whitefield during road closure

Bengaluru: With South Western Railway (SWR) set to replace the concrete slab at Lowry Road underbridge (RUB) near KR Pura railway station, several major roads in and around the area will be closed next week.

The stretch leading towards Ramamurthy Nagar and ITI Colony through the RUB will be closed from June 4 (Thursday) till June 9 (Tuesday). Commuters have been advised to use KR Pura cable-stayed bridge to reach ITI Colony, Ramamurthy Nagar and KR Pura during this period.

Some parts of KR Pura-Whitefield stretch will also remain closed.

While commuters have been directed to use the cable-stayed bridge to reach ITPL and Whitefield, SWR officials clarified only one kilometre of the stretch from KR Pura will remain closed.

Additionally, a 500-metre section of ITPL Main Road will remain closed for 12 hours from 6pm on June 7 (Sunday) till 6am on June 8 (Monday). SWR officials said the timing has been chosen to minimise the impact on commuters travelling to work Monday as the corridor houses major tech parks.

During this period, traffic will be diverted through a temporary road that will be provided near the RUB.

Commuters to Cooke Town slam BWSSB over poorly planned road-digging work

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Bengaluru: Dug-up roads, a narrow railway underpass and rains have severely limited access to Cooke Town, especially Vivekananda Nagar and Jai Bharath Nagar areas behind Banaswadi railway station.

Residents and commuters say driving through the east Bengaluru locality has become a nightmare due to poor coordination and planning by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

The board has been digging up roads to replace old water pipelines laid nearly five decades ago. After weeks of blocked roads, debris, dust and restricted movement, residents said they had to escalate the issue to higher officials.

Following repeated complaints, BWSSB officials promised residents around two weeks ago that the mud and debris would be cleared. However, work was taken up only a week later, while rains continued to worsen conditions in the areas.

TOI

INACCESSIBLE: Blocked roads, debris and dust in areas behind Banaswadi railway station have restricted movement of commuters

Mohan Nair, a resident of Vivekananda Nagar, said roads across the layout were dug up simultaneously in a haphazard manner. "They started digging randomly without proper planning. Most entry and exit points to the area were blocked by debris. Even ambulances found it difficult to reach homes of sick residents over the past few weeks," he said.

Nair said residents learnt BWSSB had approval to cut only two roads, but several stretches across the locality were dug up. "Bescom cables, sewage pipes and other utilities were damaged," he alleged.

Another resident, Mohammed Umair, said the Bescom line connected to his house was damaged during road-cutting work. "A water supply line across the road was also affected, leading to leakage for nearly two weeks. There is no coordination between different teams and agencies. Meanwhile, roadside drain work has also been taken up after a long delay," he said.

A BWSSB engineer told **TOI** the road patchwork will begin in a day or two.

"We will be laying wet mix asphalt. We are not taking up any further road-cutting before repairing these stretches," he said, adding the project will be completed within the next two weeks.

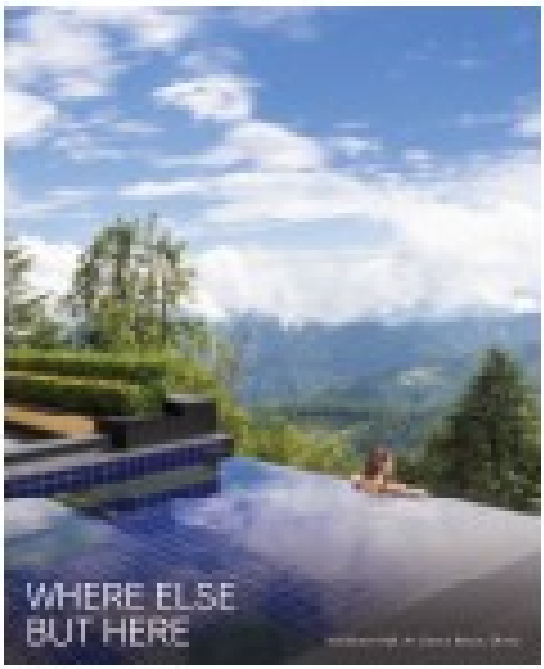
Unsung but unstoppable

PLAYERS POWERING ANOTHER FINAL RUN

BEYOND THE BOUNDARY:

The support staff shaping the home team's success

Lion memes, Dhurandhar edits and Virat mania: The online frenzy this season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WHERE ELSE BUT HERE

SSLC-2 results out: Five more students join prized 625-club

Consolidated Pass Percentage Stands At 93% Against 75% Last Yr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Around 55% of students passed SSLC-2 examination, whose results were announced Saturday evening. With this, the consolidated pass percentage of SSLC stood at 93.1%, as against 75% last year.

The pass percentage of regular fresh students was 94.1% in SSLC-1 and 63% in SSLC-2, taking the consolidated pass percentage to 98%, creating history in the state. Last year, it was 80%.

A total of 1.03 lakh students appeared for SSLC-2. A total of 11,892 students, who passed in SSLC-1, reappeared for the exam to improve their scores. Of these, 71% got better scores.

After SSLC-2, five more students secured 625 out of 625. Of these, one student is from a govt school and the other four are from private ones. Among the students who improved their results, 136 students secured 100% in first language, 76 in second language, 144 in third language, 52 in maths, 126 in science and 68 in social science.

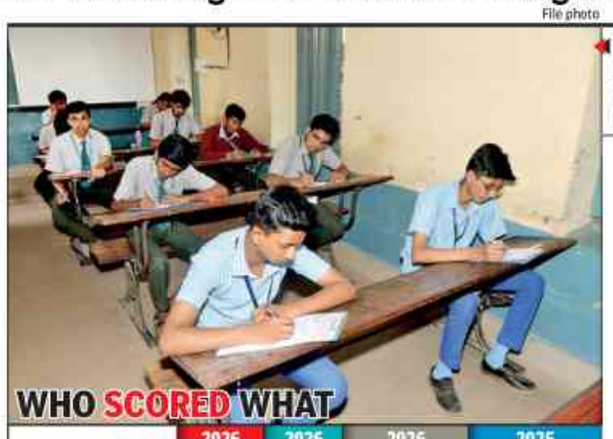
For freshers, the pass percentage in all subjects, barring first language, crossed 99% in the consolidated results. In first language, it was 98.98%. Ninety-nine per cent of girls passed, as against 97% of boys. 98% of students from govt schools passed, marginally trailing behind unaided schools (98.63%). Pass percentage was the highest in English medium (98.96%) and the lowest in Tamil medium (93%).

A district-wise analysis points out that Udupi clocked 99.58%, Mandya 99.43%, Dakshina Kannada 99.42% and Bengaluru Rural 99.34%. Hassan, Haveri and Uttara Kannada are other districts with above 99%.

The exam was held from May 18 to May 25 in 358 exam centres. This year, only two SSLCs are being held.

This time, the department of school education brought in major changes, including reduction of pass marks from 35 to 33 and inclusion of internal marks for passing the exam.

File photo



SCORING HIGH: A total of 11,892 students, who passed SSLC-1, reappeared for the exam to improve their scores

Among the students who improved their results, 136 secured 100% in first language, 76 in second language, 144 in third language, 52 in maths, 126 in science and 68 in social science. For freshers, the pass percentage in all subjects, barring first language, crossed 99% in the consolidated results

WHO SCORED WHAT

Candidate	2026 exam 1	2026 exam 2	2026 consolidated	2025 consolidated
Regular freshers	94.1%	62.9%	98.1%	80.04%
Private freshers	6.45%	18.69%	18.2%	16.57%
Regular repeaters	53.4%	66.1%	72.7%	9.67%
Private repeaters	8.4%	27.69%	23.6%	13.78%
Overall	88.7%	55.19%	93.1%	74.74%

2 men arrested for selling beef as mutton

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Two men were arrested in the city for allegedly deceiving their customers by serving beef while claiming it was mutton.

The accused are Jijoo Alexander from Byrati village and Shibu KB from Tippanna Layout. Hailing from Kerala and residing in a rented house in Byrati, they owned Aisiri Hub Kayaloram Restaurant at Bommenahalli, police said.

An officer said police had received complaints from customers alleging that Kayaloram restaurant was serving beef while marketing it as mutton. "Beef was not listed anywhere on the restaurant's menu. However, several customers alleged they had been served beef when they ordered mutton dishes. Based on these complaints, we deployed a plainclothes officer to verify the allegations," the officer said.

Posing as a customer, the officer purchased mutton dishes from the restaurant. The samples were then examined with the assistance of officials from the animal husbandry and veterinary sciences department.

"The tests confirmed that the meat was beef. Following verification, we arrested the restaurant owners," he added.

Another partner, Abhilash, is absconding.

HEALTH AWARENESS INITIATIVE

CLEARING THE AIR

On World No Tobacco Day, respiratory specialists highlight the growing health risks linked to tobacco and nicotine use, stressing the importance of awareness, early diagnosis, and timely cessation

World No Tobacco Day serves as a reminder of the lasting damage caused by tobacco in all its forms. From smoking and vaping to passive smoke exposure, doctors warn that respiratory illnesses linked to nicotine use continue to rise, with many patients seeking medical help only after significant lung damage has occurred. Specialists emphasise that greater awareness, early screening, smoke-free environments, and timely quitting can play a crucial role in protecting lung health and reducing the burden of chronic respiratory diseases.

Doctors can help you take control and protect your lungs after smoking. If you've smoked, don't wait—speak to a healthcare professional today. Doctors assess lung health with simple tests and create a personal damage-control plan. They guide you on quitting safely, prescribe medications to ease cravings, and recommend breathing exercises to improve lung function. Early action can slow disease, reduce symptoms, and boost energy.

Breathe Better Everyday

zydus Dedicated To Life

Disclaimer: *Information contained herein has been provided solely by the Zydus Healthcare. BCCL does not endorse and is not responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein. Readers should seek medical practitioner's advice before taking any decision.*

Dr K S Satish
Senior Consultant Pulmonologist
Manipal Hospital, Bangalore

Tobacco use, in all forms, continues to be a major contributor to respiratory illnesses seen in clinical practice. Emerging nicotine products are often marketed as safer options, yet they carry significant risks. Many patients present only when lung damage is advanced. Increasing awareness about these harmful effects, along with early diagnosis and timely cessation, can significantly improve outcomes and reduce the growing burden on healthcare systems.

Dr B L Shashibhushan
Director & HOD, SDS TRC & Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases & TB Centre, Bangalore

Early screening plays a critical role in identifying tobacco-related lung damage before symptoms become severe. Many individuals underestimate the effects of nicotine exposure until lung function is compromised. Regular assessments, combined with increased awareness and timely cessation, can improve outcomes significantly. Promoting the importance of early diagnosis is essential in reducing the burden of chronic respiratory diseases in the community.

Dr Satyanarayana Mysore
HOD & Chairman
Manipal Hospital, Bangalore

Tobacco addiction impacts not only individuals but also those around them through secondhand smoke exposure. In many households, children and older adults remain vulnerable to respiratory illnesses due to passive smoking. Promoting smoke-free environments and encouraging quitting can greatly improve quality of life.

Man gets back stolen bike after 2 months

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A bike stolen from KSR Bengaluru parking lot more than two months ago was recovered by Railway Protection Force (RPF) Thursday. They also apprehended a man who allegedly stole the bike, valued at almost Rs 1.2 lakh.

Rakesh Chandran (name changed), a resident of Jakkur, reached the station on his Hero XPulse motorcycle with Tamil Nadu registration, on the morning of March 19 and parked it near the main entrance of the station. On returning the same evening, he realised his bike was missing.

Following his complaint, govt railway police (GRP), Bengaluru division, registered an FIR.

During their probe, RPF and GRP personnel received a tipoff Thursday. Based on inputs provided by Crime Investigation Bureau (CIB), the investigation team traced the suspect, identified as Suresh, 35, with the stolen bike in Cottonpet.

Suresh, hailing from a village in Ballari district, confessed to the crime. Officials stated they are investigating whether Suresh was involved in similar incidents in Bengaluru in the past.

Cop carries disabled man on shoulder to help cross flooded Mysuru Road

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A constable attached to Byatarayanapura traffic police station won appreciation from netizens after a `buddy carry' video in which he is seen helping a person with disablity (PwD) in a waterlogged road went viral.

The incident occurred around 7:30pm Friday when water started overflowing onto Mysuru Road. Constable **HM Anil** was manning traffic opposite KSRTC bus terminal on Mysuru Road and also helping pedestrians cross the busy road as many vehicles, even when the traffic signal turned red, did not stop.

"I saw a man waiting to cross the road from the bus terminal. I called him loudly, saying 'Sir banni'. He signalled to come towards him. I went near him and saw he was specially challenged. He told me it was difficult for him to cross the road as water flow was increasing," Anil said.

Holding his hand, he helped the man and they started crossing the road. However, on reaching the middle, the man found it difficult as he started losing balance. "Realising the risk and danger he was in, I lifted him on the shoulder and crossed the road. Also, I asked him to wait till rain stops. He thanked me and walked away," Anil said.

By then, some of Anil's friends, who were standing on the opposite pavement, recorded his act on their mobile and shared it on social media. By Saturday, the video went viral, with netizens praising Anil.

15 flights diverted, 35 delayed at KIA

Heavy rain accompanied by strong winds disrupted flights at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) Saturday evening, forcing the diversion of 15 incoming flights and causing delays to several departures.

BIAL sources said adverse weather conditions over the city affected air traffic movements during evening peak hours. As many as 36 outbound flights were delayed till 9.30pm.

5 bikes, 8 gas cylinders recovered from 2 thieves

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Two miscreants involved in a series of thefts across the city were arrested and five two-wheelers and eight gas cylinders were recovered from them.

The arrested are Syed Afzal alias Pandey, 27, employee at a mutton stall, and Syed Touhid, 19, auto driver.

On March 28, the miscreants robbed Shivu, 23, a mason from Raichur who was staying in a shed at Nrupathunganagar, south Bengaluru. When Shivu was asleep in the shed at an under-construction site, one of the miscreants barged in around 8pm, threatened him with a machete and robbed him of Rs 5,000 before fleeing on a two-wheeler with an accomplice.

Puttenahalli police nabbed the duo near Vinayakanagar Circle on May 20. During interrogation, they confessed not only to the robbery but also to multiple thefts involving two-wheelers and LPG cylinders in Madiwala, Jayanagar, Kumaraswamy Layout and Puttenahalli.

Afzal was previously involved in seven cases and had been arrested earlier, while Touhid was caught for the first time.

TIMES COMMUNITY — BUILDING A BEAUTIFUL BENGALURU

Kimchi & Butter Chicken Tteokbokki:

Korean Expats Make B'luru Their Home

Diaspora Adapts To Daily Life Through Language, Cuisine And Cultural Exchanges

Mini.Thomas@timesofindia.com

Seo Kyong-nam, a Korean expat, counts her blessings every day. The 47-year-old who lives in Zenith Apartment in Karle Town, moved to Bengaluru 20 years ago. Her life in the city, she says, has been shaped by the warmth and kindness of Bengalureans.

Seo's first few months here, however, were not easy, as she adapted to the new social environment. "Shopkeepers would sometimes tell me to 'come tomorrow.' It took me some time to learn that 'tomorrow' did not always mean the next day. Often it indicated a near future," recalls Seo, who is the director of education at Korean Association in Bengaluru and Andhra Pradesh (KABA), a community of Korean expats.

Another shock, she says, was when a little girl pinched her cheeks, saying "Oh! So cute," something that would be unthinkable in her culture, which strictly follows the concept of seniority by age.

Bengaluru is now home to over 1,000 Koreans, many employed by major companies like Kia, Samsung, and LG. Most families settle in the north of the city, drawn by growing Korean networks, international schools and gated communities.

As adults adapt to life in Bengaluru, children face challenges in learning English. Despite Korean parents' intense focus on providing English education for their children, many struggle with conversational fluency, due to the Korean curriculum prioritising reading and writing over speaking. Korean expats use their Bengaluru stint to actively pursue tutoring and international schooling to improve their children's English proficiency for future success.

> We have a local cook who makes Korean and Indian dishes for us. Butter naan and dal makhani have become a comforting staple for us, thanks to him.
> **Seo Kyong-nam, 47** | DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, KOREAN ASSOCIATION IN BENGALURU AND ANDHRA PRADESH (KABA)

A SAGA OF ADAPTATION AND PRESERVATION: Seo Kyong-nam with her son You Byeong-chan, daughter You Ga-on and husband You Sung-hoon

"Some students initially require additional support in English language fluency, and we address this through our dedicated EAL/ESL support programmes, differentiated instruction, and individualised learning support. With the right guidance and immersive classroom environment, students adapt and thrive confidently," says Brian Irving, head of school at Trio World Academy, adding that many Korean students demonstrate strong aptitude in mathematics and analytical learning.

A City Where Life Is An Endless Party

Bengaluru's propensity for grand celebrations has charmed families like that of Park Sang-chul, a Busan native who works for a company that makes body parts for Kia Motors.

His sons, Eun-woo and Ji-woo, initially struggled with English after the family moved to Bengaluru three years ago. However, they are doing well now, in school and outside.

They often get invited to their friends' grand birthday parties, says Park, who adds that birthday parties in Korea are an intimate affair, mostly celebrated with close family members. "Koreans traditionally celebrate their children's 1st birthday. Then they celebrate major milestones such as 60, 70 or 80 years only, unlike Bengalureans," says the mechanical engineering graduate from the University of Ulsan in South Korea.

Bengaluru's vibrant social scene is a hit with expats like Bae Seounghee, a former Korean govt official, who enjoys lively gatherings twice weekly with her newfound Indian and Korean friends. She says the turnout often reflects the growing Indian interest in Korean culture driven by K-pop, K-dramas and cuisine. Bae organises potluck-style events, featuring her homemade Korean delicacies, including kimchi dumplings, red meat dishes and wine, accompanied by shared laughter, and karaoke sessions. For Bae, 38, these gatherings are a source of immense happiness and vital connection.

Korean expats in Bengaluru actively engage with Indian culture and celebrate Seollal (Korean New Year) and Chuseok (autumn harvest festival) as well as local festivals with their Indian friends and they serve as a platform for cultural exchanges.

When Two Cultures Unite Over Food

Seo's son, You Byeong-chan, a hotel management student and aspiring chef, creatively blends Indian and Korean cuisines. He recently created a 'butter chicken tteokbokki' by combining ingredients from Seela Mart, from where he procures Korean ingredients. "The tteokbokki was just lightly boiled, and the fusion dish was incredibly delicious," says You, who is currently interning at ITC Gardenia. He also experiments with innovative fusion desserts.

Park Sang-chul, 39, with his sons Eun-woo and Ji-woo

Language Help For Korean Expats

In Sahakarnagar, Indoin is actively building bridges between India and Korea. The academy offers Korean language and cultural education to Indians, while also providing English classes for Korean students and employees in India. Many Korean students, like 9th grader Jeon Hyun-joon, attend Bengaluru's international schools, supplementing their education with INDOIN's English lessons which help ease their settlement. This initiative significantly strengthens bilateral connections and makes life easier for Korean expats.

That Homeland Feel Through Treks

Korean diaspora in India finds solace by recreating cherished homeland experiences. Ko Chan-gyu, 56, who lives in Phoenix One Apartment in Yeshwantpur, treks through local hills like Nandi and Savandurga, recalling mountain treks in Suwon with his son, who is currently in the US. "Mountains calm you down," says Ko who lives alone in Bengaluru. He also visits coastal areas in Chennai, Goa, and Udupi for seafood, particularly crab preparations and fish fry, reminiscing about his peninsula home and finding comfort far away.

> Being part of a community of young golf-loving mothers in the city helps me navigate motherhood with joy and positivity. With my husband away in Anantapur on weekdays, I take care of my kids by myself, and my days are packed. The banter with my friends after a game of golf at Prestige Golfshire is a real stressbuster and it means the world to me. We enjoy our yoga classes too.
> **Jang Yu-jin, 40** | SPORTS ENTHUSIAST & HOMEMAKER

> I love hosting potluck dinners. My Indian and Korean friends bring home-made desserts and a long list of their favourite songs, while I make the main course, including kimchi pajeon.
> **Bae Seoung-hee, 38** | HOMEMAKER

LEARN SPOKEN KANNADA

Exercises: Section1

Fill in the blanks with the correct answer from the options given below.

1.yaake sir seat belt _____?
a) nODillaa b) haakillaa c) maaDillaa d) None of these

2. 500/- rupaayi _____ kaTTi.
a) danDa b)bill c) saala d) None of these

3.madam, gaaDi _____.
a) banni b) hOgi c) nillisi d) None of these

4. Sir, nimma gaaDiya insurance mattu RC card _____.
a) koDi b) tOrisi c) both a and b d) None of these

5. neevu signal jump _____.
a) maaDiddeera b) nODiddeera c) ODiddeera d) b and c

6. neevu tumbaa _____ gaaDi ODisiddeera.
a) vEgavaagi b) nidhaanavaagi c) keTTaddaagi d) All of these

7. nimma _____ patra tOrisi.
a) Enu b) prEma c) paravaanagi d) yaava

8. sanchaari niyamagaLu nimma _____ gaagi ive.
a) mane b) tondare c) mOji d) surakSHate

9.dvi-chakra vaahan ODisuvaaga helmeT _____ dharisabEku.
a) bEku b) bEDa c) kaDDaayavaagi d) None of these

10) sanchaari niyamagaLannu _____.
a) paalisi b) ODisi c) nODisi d) None of these

11) atiyaada _____ nimma _____ apaaya.
a)vEga, jeevakke b) vaagi, jeeva c) jeeva, vEga d)None of these

12.kshamisi madam, nanage naaLe _____ aaguvu-dillaa.
a) maaDalu b) nODalu c) baralu d) All of these

13.nimma _____ yaaru iddaare?
a) ooru b)mane c) jotege d) None of these

14. idu nimma _____na?
a) viLaasa b) mane c) doDDa d) Both a and b

15. idu nimma _____ mane naa?
a) mEle b) keLage c) swanta d) jaasti

16. dayaviTTu _____ banni.
a) saalaagi b) nidhaanavaagi c) elli d) Both a and b

17. idannu doctor ge _____.
a) koDi b) tOrisi c) both a and b d) None of these

18. nimage Enu _____ ide?
a) tondare b) samasye c) eshtu d) Both a and b

19. maatre/aushadhi _____ koDteeni.
a) malagu b) baredu c) Odu d) None of these

20.nenne nanage jaasti_____ittu.
a) kelasa b) jwara c) negaDi d) All of these

Exercises: Section2

Translate the following sentences into Kannada. Read out the sentences, record your voice and upload the recording by scanning the QR code below by May 31, 2026 (Sunday), 11:59pm. Top three submissions will be recognized.

1 Last summer, I went to Vietnam with my elder sister's husband's younger sister.

2 We have a lot of tall trees and a few lemon trees in our backyard.

3 Those who have fever, cough, cold or headache , please stand here.

4 Radha sister, are the prices of all vegetables increasing? Is it true?

5 Why is the milk always coming late these days?

QR code for recording the answers (Lesson 6E Section2)

Winners of last lesson 6 E

Siva Ranjani | Sunil Kumar | Anitha Anand

Study in the UK in 2026

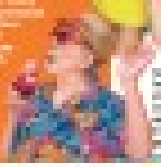
H

Dopamine brights: Dress up for a mood boost

S

The new-work uniform

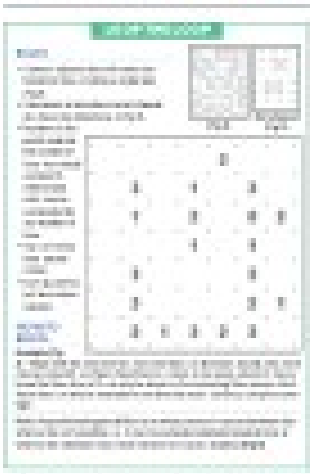
What it entails

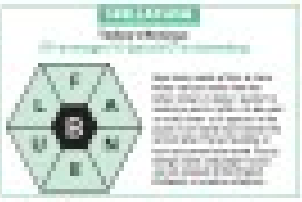


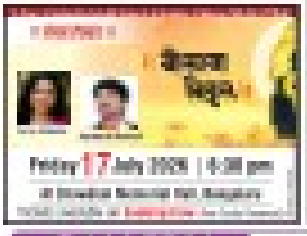
Tabloid ultra-commuting at Anupam V Kapil explains the effects of the Jupiter transit from your Moon sign between June 1 and October 31 and from January 25, 2027 to June 15, 2027.

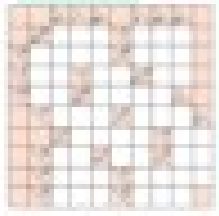
FINOLEX

Rapid rocks are a relic of our natural prairies









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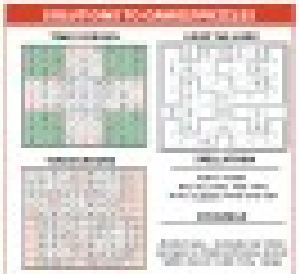

Water vigil: BWSSB books 44, collects ₹2.2L from violators

₹5k Fine Fails To Deter As Board Cracks Down

Vindhya.Pabolu
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Stepping up efforts to conserve drinking water this summer, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) collected Rs 2.2 lakh in spot fines from 44 violators between March 1 and May 8, as part of an ongoing crackdown on misuse of potable water in the city.

The amount was collected from violators as the board intensified its enforcement against wastage of drinking water. A penalty of Rs 5,000 per violation was imposed under BWSSB's water conservation regulations, which prohibit the use of treated drinking water for non-essential activities such as washing vehicles, gardening, construction work, road cleaning, and operating decorative fountains.

The board first intensified enforcement of these rules during the 2024 water crisis, when concerns over depleting groundwater levels and reservoir storage prompted stricter monitoring and penalties.

Data released by BWSSB shows that East zone recorded the highest number of violations, accounting for 17 of the 44 cases and generating Rs 85,000 in fines. EE(E)-2 division alone reported 11 violations, indicating a concentration of offences in parts of east Bengaluru.

West and South zones reported 12 violations each, contributing Rs 60,000 per zone. In West zone, EE(W)-3 division accounted for 10 cases, making it one of the city's biggest hotspots for water wastage during the period under review.

North zone fared relatively better, with only three violations detected and fines amounting to Rs 15,000. In contrast, Central zone recorded zero violations, making it the only zone in Bengaluru to achieve full compliance during the two-month period.

The figures suggest that while awareness about water conservation has improved in some parts of the city, misuse of drinking water continues in several localities despite repeated warnings and penalties. With summer demand placing pressure on water resources, BWSSB has continued inspections across Bengaluru and maintained spot fines of Rs 5,000 per violation to deter wastage.

Ram Prasath Manohar V, chairman of the water board, said: "Awareness about water conservation has increased significantly, and the message against water wastage is loud and clear. More people are voluntarily complying and are conscious about avoiding wastage. While that may have contributed to fewer reported violations, we still need to strengthen enforcement so that even small instances of water wastage are identified and controlled."

On Feb 17, 2025, the board issued a directive prohibiting the use of drinking water for non-essential purposes. The directive was issued in accordance with Sections 33 and 34 of Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Act, 1964.

Meanwhile, some residents said incidents of water wastage continue to be reported. Shiva K, a resident of JP Nagar 6th Phase, said: "Even last week, one of our neighbours left the water running from morning until around 9pm. A huge amount of water was wasted because the tanker was full and overflowing. We tried contacting the owner, but he said the worker was supposed to look into it, and the latter was not answering calls. They simply did not seem to care, despite the massive wastage. Many people are still not aware of the seriousness of the issue. Govt should conduct more awareness campaigns so that people understand the importance of conserving water."

Attention turns to cabinet formation

▶ Continued from page 1

Shivakumar's election as CLP leader marked the first change in CLP leadership in 17 years, with Siddaramaiah holding the position throughout that period.

At the CLP meet, Siddaramaiah himself proposed Shivakumar's name, while former home minister G Parameshwara seconded the motion before it received unanimous backing from legislators. Later, Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal made the formal announcement.

Soon after the meeting, Shivakumar called on governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot and formally staked claim to form govt. Attention has now shifted to cabinet formation, with several ministers likely to be sworn in alongside Shivakumar if consultations are completed before Tuesday.

PTI

SHOW OF FAITH: DK Shivakumar offers prayers after the CLP meeting

Chandrashekhar appealed to party workers not to travel to the venue, assuring that Shivakumar would go on district tours to interact with Congress workers and the public. Congress is attempting to strike a balance between caste, community and regional interests while accommodating various party factions after Siddaramaiah's exit from the top post.

Party insiders said plans to appoint multiple deputy chief ministers, in line with the Ahinda social coalition formula, are being reconsidered because of the large number of aspirants.

Discussions are also under way on key portfolios in the new cabinet, with Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra being tipped for a significant role. However, sources said the outgoing chief minister is not keen on his induction in the cabinet.

Land, inheritance & investments boost DKS' assets

▶ Continued from page 1

If his sartorial confidence has grown, so have his declared assets, going from Rs 75.5 crore in 2008, to Rs 251 crore in 2013, Rs 840 crore in 2018, and Rs 1,413 crore in 2023. Much of this has come from inheritance of land, investments in land and their appreciation in value. His declarations show that agricultural lands have been handed to him through the wills of his father and grandmother. He has declared residential properties across Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kanakapura and New Delhi. This includes a mall site in Gopalpura in Bengaluru. With land prices in Karnataka booming over the last two decades, the value of his land assets too has soared.

Among elected representatives in India, affidavit data shows the richest are AIADMK MLA Leema Rose Martin, with declared assets of Rs 5,863 crore and liabilities of Rs 340 crore, and Maharashtra MLA Parag Shah, with declared assets of Rs 3,383 crore. Shivakumar is also among the richest elected representatives in the country.

CMs with least assets

Omar Abdullah (Jammu & Kashmir) has reported assets worth Rs 55 lakh and no liabilities, while Bhajan Lal Sharma (Rajasthan) has declared assets of Rs 1 crore along with liabilities of Rs 46 lakh. Mohan Charan Majhi (Odisha) reported assets worth Rs 1 crore and liabilities of Rs 35 lakh.

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B'luru-V'pura biweekly to take 11 hours

Bengaluru: The newly approved Bengaluru-Vijayapura biweekly express special will run overnight and complete its journey in 11 hours, much faster than the existing trains.

Passengers travelling between the cities daily had long demanded an overnight train for convenience following completion of the 9.6-km doubling between Alamatti and Wandal, commissioned two months ago.

The railway ministry allocated a weekly special train on demand (TOD) along the route till June 28. Though yet to be regularised, the service will run twice a week all through June.

With other trains along the route taking close to 15 hours to complete their journey, the new train will solve this by bypassing Hubballi and Gadag stations, thereby reducing the journey time to 11 hours, a four-hour difference.

According to the timetable notified by South Western Railway (SWR), the express special will leave Yeshwantpur at 6.15pm Saturdays and Mondays and reach Vijayapura by 5.15am the next day. The return service will start from Vijayapura at 5pm Sundays and Tuesdays, reaching Yeshwantpur by 4.10am the following day. The train will have 19 coaches. TNN

Oral, liver cancers on the rise as tobacco toll grows, say experts

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: While tobacco's role in lung cancer has long been recognised, doctors are warning of a growing burden of tobacco-related cancers affecting multiple organs, including stomach, liver, kidneys, pancreas, head and neck, and blood. **World No Tobacco Day** is observed annually on May 31.

"Tobacco accounts for nearly 62% of cancers among Indian men and 33.2% among women. In Karnataka, about 40.4% of all newly diagnosed cancers are tobacco-related, while at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO), 50.3% of all cancers treated are linked to tobacco use. Among men, nearly 59% of cancers are tobacco-related, while among women the figure is 42%," said Dr Naveen T, director, KMIO.

He added that Bengaluru has witnessed a steady rise in oral cancers over the years. "Among men, tongue cancer has shown an average annual percentage increase (AAPC) of 1.8%, while mouth cancer has increased by 2.2% per year from 1982 to 2025, indicating a growing burden of oral cancers, largely attributable to tobacco use. Among women, apart from lung cancer, most tobacco-related cancer sites have shown a relatively stable trend over the years."

Data from KMIO also showed a rise in the proportion of several tobacco-related cancers between 2015 and 2025. Among men, tongue cancer increased from 10.7% to 13%, mouth cancer from 11.5% to 16.3%, and liver cancer from 4.1% to 8.9%. Among women, tongue cancer rose from 2.2% to 3.3%, mouth cancer from 15.9% to 20%, and liver cancer from 1.3% to 3.4%.

Doctors noted that tobacco remains the leading preventable cause of death globally, accounting for nearly 7 million deaths annually.

Doctors also cautioned against the dangers of second-hand smoke. "Exposure to second-hand smoke for a long time contributes to deaths from heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and COPD. Tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke during pregnancy increase the risk of foetal death, miscarriage, and stillbirth. Children living with smokers are at greater risk of bronchitis, asthma, pneumonia...," said Dr Ajay Handa, senior consultant (pulmonary & critical care medicine), Sakra World Hospital.

While the overall burden remains highest among people above 54 years of age, oncologists are seeing tobacco-related cancers in younger adults. "Most tobacco-related cancers typically develop after 15 to 20 years of tobacco use. However, we are increasingly seeing younger patients, including those in their 20s and 30s, as tobacco use begins at an earlier age. Cases among women are also on the rise," said Dr Radheshyam Naik, founder, medical director and head of medical oncology, haematology & bone marrow transplantation unit, Sammprada Hospital.

The EVALI threat

Doctors noted that in a bid to quit cigarettes, many are now picking up the habit of vaping or using e-cigarettes, which is giving rise to e-cigarette or vaping use-associated lung injury (EVALI). Dr Madhavi Nair, consultant surgical oncologist, Manipal Hospitals, said, "As tobacco-related cancers are increasing, we are also seeing a rise in EVALI. Youngsters think that vaping is safer than smoking cigarettes, but vaping also introduces a lot of nicotine into the body, leading to nicotine addiction. We do not even know the long-term side-effects yet. While e-cigarettes probably have fewer chemicals, they're as dangerous as cigarettes."

'Text neck' epidemic looming: Constant scrolling damaging nerve, warn docs

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: A 28-year-old man, overworked at his US-based company, started working night shifts in addition to regular hours amid layoffs. Prolonged screen time and poor posture led to severe symptoms of "text neck" — a repetitive strain injury caused by constantly looking down at screens. What started as tingling and numbness progressed to complete weakness in one arm and a bulging cervical disc, eventually requiring complex surgery.

With screen time rising and posture worsening, doctors say text neck cases are increasing, with at least 2-3 patients coming for treatment daily. "We've seen a consistent increase in people walking into OPDs with what we commonly term text neck or tech neck. Earlier, this was more common among desk workers or older adults, but now even teens and college students are presenting with similar complaints due to excessive screen use," said Dr Vijay Girish, senior consultant, sports orthopaedics, arthroscopy and robotic joint replacement, Hosmat Hospitals.

He added, "Several studies indicate a steep rise in neck-related issues due to heavy smartphone use among students and young adults. The shift became more prominent after the pandemic as studies, work, entertainment, and social interaction all became online."

Dr Akshay TM, consultant, orthopaedics, Prakriya Hospitals, explained, "Text neck is caused by sustained forward head posture while looking at screens. Tilting the head forward increases pressure on the cervical spine, straining muscles, ligaments, discs, and joints. Over time, this causes muscle fatigue, abnormal joint wear and tear, and sometimes, nerve irritation."

Text neck usually begins with neck pain and stiffness. "The pain gradually spreads between the shoulder blades and shoulders, followed by headaches and fatigue. In advanced stages, nerves get involved and shooting pain radiates down the arms, sometimes causing weakness in one arm," said Dr Arnav P Urs, orthopaedics consultant, Apollo Clinic.

Children are also increasingly affected due to online classes, gaming, heavy backpacks and prolonged screen exposure combined with poor posture. "It is worrying because their spines are still developing, and poor posture at a young age can lead to long-term musculoskeletal problems," Dr Girish said.

Doctors said treatment is usually conservative, with physiotherapy playing a key role. "Initial care includes correcting posture, short-term pain relief, if required, and physiotherapy to strengthen the neck and upper back muscles. Ergonomic changes, home exercises and gradual return to physical activity are important. Severe cases may need imaging and specialist review," Dr Akshay said.

However, doctors say nomophobia — fear of being without a mobile phone — is becoming a major barrier to recovery. "People don't want to reduce screen time. Doomscrolling also makes them sit in awkward positions for long periods. We advise keeping phones at eye level and taking breaks every 20 minutes," Dr Urs said.

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BELTHANGADY
Date : 31st May 2026, Sunday Time : 10.00 A.M.
Venue : Amruthavarshini Sabhabhavana, Dharmasthala

Inauguration by
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Hon'ble Vice-President of India

In the presence of
Sri Thawar Chand Gehlot
Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka

Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade
Dharmadhikari, Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala
President, Sri Dharmasthala Siri Gramodyoga Samsthe (R.)

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Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare and District In-charge Minister, Dakshina Kannada

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NMC proposes 10-year time limit to complete MBBS course

Draft Amendment Retains Four-Attempt Restriction In First Year

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Medical students could soon get an additional year to complete their MBBS course, with National Medical Commission (NMC) proposing to extend the maximum duration to finish undergraduate medical education from nine years to ten years. In a draft amendment to Graduate Medical Education Regulations 2023, the commission has proposed that no student will be allowed to continue the undergraduate medical course beyond ten years of joining the MBBS programme, including the compulsory rotatory medical internship. The existing regulation limits the duration to nine years from the date of admission.

EXTRA YEAR FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

Current Rule (GMER 2023)
- Maximum duration to complete MBBS: **9 years**
- Maximum attempts in First Professional MBBS: **4**

Proposed Amendment (2026)
- Maximum duration to complete MBBS: **10 years**
- Internship included within the 10-year limit
- Maximum attempts in First Professional MBBS remain 4

The proposal leaves unchanged another key provision of the regulations that bars students from making more than four attempts to clear the First Professional MBBS examination.

The amendment is expected to benefit students whose education is delayed due to academic setbacks, health issues, family circumstances or other unforeseen reasons.

The draft notification, published in Gazette of India, has been placed in the public domain for comments and suggestions. National Medical Commission has invited feedback from medical colleges, students, faculty members and other stakeholders. The commission said objections and suggestions received within 30 days will be considered before the amendment is finalised.

The change comes nearly three years after the introduction of the competency-based Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2023, which had capped the duration of undergraduate medical education at nine years.

Medical education experts say the proposal reflects the recognition that a small section of students may require additional time to complete training because of interruptions during the course. They noted that while the amendment provides greater flexibility, it does not dilute academic standards since the four-attempt ceiling in the First Professional MBBS examination remains intact.

Can critical thinking competitions change how classrooms function?

Educators say initiatives like **Times Critical Thinking Championship** can encourage inquiry-driven learning and help move schools beyond rote memorisation

Meghna.Dhulia
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Can a competition change the way classrooms function? At a time when India's education system is attempting to move beyond memorisation and exam-centric learning, the question is becoming increasingly significant. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisions classrooms that encourage inquiry, discussion, problem-solving and experiential learning. Yet, translating those ideals into everyday teaching remains one of the biggest challenges facing schools and educators across the country.

It is in this context that initiatives like the Times Critical Thinking Championship (TCTC), an initiative by **TOI** and inspired by the Times Foundation, are positioning themselves as interventions designed to reshape classroom culture. By emphasising reasoning, questioning and analytical thinking, the championship aims to make critical thinking a regular part of learning rather than an abstract goal confined to policy documents.

TCTC's patron-in-chief Nripendra Misra, chairman of Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya and Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra and former principal secretary to the Prime Minister, described critical thinking as central to nation-building. "The strength of a nation lies not just in what its people know, but in how they think. India must nurture a generation that does not accept ideas at face value, but uses critical thinking to examine them with clarity, courage, and conviction," he said.

School heads believe such competitions can gradually influence the way both students and teachers approach learning. Pallavi Sharma, principal of Mamta Modern School, said critical thinking is essential because it enables students to analyse situations, understand multiple perspectives, and make well-thought-out decisions instead of simply memorising content. According to her, competitions like TCTC encourage students to think creatively, solve problems confidently, and move beyond textbook-centred learning.

More importantly, she believes such initiatives can gradually alter teaching practices themselves. "They inspire educators to move beyond rote learning and adopt more discussion-based, activity-oriented and inquiry-driven teaching methods," she said. Sharma added that over time, classrooms become more interactive and engaging, with greater emphasis on genuine understanding rather than examination performance alone.

However, some education experts argue that despite repeated policy reforms, classroom practices in India still largely reward recall over reflection. Ashok Agarwal, education activist and lawyer, pointed out, "The development of scientific temper is already embedded within the Constitution as a fundamental duty, yet questioning and inquiry are not consistently encouraged in schools."

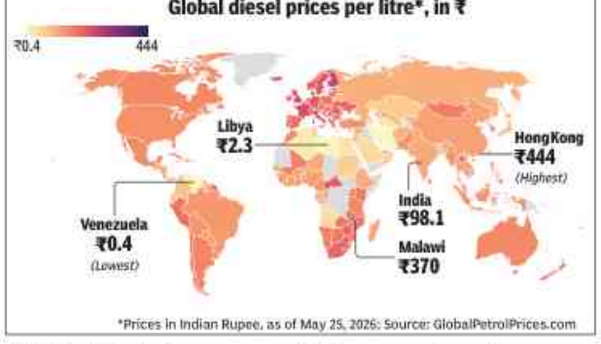
He said far greater efforts are needed to create classrooms where students are encouraged to challenge ideas, ask difficult questions and think independently rather than merely reproduce information during examinations. Educators say sustained institutional support, teacher training and assessment reforms will ultimately determine whether such classroom transformations endure across Indian schools.

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Same continent, vastly different prices for diesel

Libya has among the world's cheapest diesel at about Rs 2.8 per litre, while Malawi, in the same continent, is among the costliest at Rs 370. Globally, most countries with diesel above Rs 200/L are in Europe due to heavy taxation and environmental policies

Global diesel prices per litre*, in ₹



*Prices in Indian Rupee, as of May 25, 2026; Source: GlobalPetrolPrices.com

One arrested was tasked with recruiting youth for terror activities

▶Continued from page 1

The first arrest was that of Vijay, who was apprehended from Pune, while his associate Nitish Paswan was nabbed from Sahibganj in Jharkhand.

Investigators alleged that Vijay was in regular contact with members of the Shahzad Bhatti network operating from Pakistan and Dubai and had been tasked with carrying out criminal and terror-related activities in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Vijay was also allegedly assigned to recruit youths for terror operations in the Delhi-NCR region," Delhi police said in a statement. Police said Taoqeer Rizwan Ahmad Shaikh and Sajid Mehboob Shaikh, arrested from Mumbai, were in contact with alleged Inter-Services Intelligence handlers Yawar Khan and Munna Jhingada.

Further interrogation and technical analysis revealed that another group from Punjab was allegedly travelling to Delhi to carry out similar attacks.

Acting on this information, police intercepted Harvinder Singh, Gagandeep Singh and Manjeet Singh on the Mehrauli-Badarpur Road around 1 am on Saturday and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition.

Delhi Police

The recoveries included four hand grenades allegedly manufactured by the Pakistan Ordnance Factory, two Glock pistols and a mobile phone, the police said

The recoveries included four hand grenades allegedly manufactured by the Pakistan Ordnance Factory, two Glock pistols, 24 live rounds of ammunition, mobile phones containing incriminating chats with Pakistan-based handlers, and two motorcycles, police said.

Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Ang Kami Lama , a Nepali national, who was allegedly tasked with arranging hideouts and funding for the arrested accused on the directions of Jhingada. Police said the module was being handled by Pakistan-based underworld operative Jhingada, Bhatti and their associates.

Google fined for misdirecting searches to rivals' products

Abhinav.Garg
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Delhi HC has ordered Google to pay Rs 30 lakh in damages to a sanitaryware maker after finding that internet users searching for the company's products were directed to rival manufacturers through Google's advertising system.

HC said Google is liable to pay damages for allowing rival competitors to place advertisements on Hindware's trademark as keywords, leading to losses. Google's Ads programme allows advertisers to bid on keywords to trigger their ads. Hindware argued that when consumers typed its trademark into Google's search engine, sponsored links for competitors appeared alongside the search results, diverting potential customers. Justice Mini Pushkarna, while dealing with two lawsuits by Hindware Ltd, held that the use of trademarks as keywords amounted to "unfair advantage" under the Trademarks Act and restrained Google LLC and Google India from using 'Hindware' or 'Hindware Sanitaryware', 'Hindware Sanitary' or 'Hindware Sanitaryware India' as part of advertising keywords for its platform. It held that Hindware was entitled to actual costs of litigation. HC ordered the defendants to pay the amount within eight weeks.

HC said Google is liable to pay damages for allowing rivals to place advertisements on Hindware's trademark as keywords, leading to losses

The bench observed Google's AdWords programme monetised search through ads, and by letting rivals target users interested in the plaintiff's mark, it engaged in "unfair practice and also sought to exploit the distinctive character or repute of the plaintiff's well-known trademark to benefit its own advertising business.

12-yr-old girl's body, eaten by crocs, found

Bhopal: Gwalior police are struggling to piece together the final moments of a 12-year-old girl whose partial remains were recovered days after she went missing. The child's stepfather, now under detention, has claimed the girl died by suicide inside their home and he secretly disposed of the body in Bhind's Sindh river fearing 'social stigma' and police action. Investigators, however, are treating his version with caution.

SP Dharamveer Yada said they were trying to ascertain if the child died by suicide, or the scene was manipulated to conceal murder.

Police said, the girl studied in class 5. She was reported missing on May 25 by her stepfather. TNN

HC: Taking part in protest no ground to deny PMLA bail

Times News Network

New Delhi: The Delhi high court has granted bail to an activist of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) in a case of money laundering, rejecting the Enforcement Directorate's demand to deny bail. That the activist, Wahidur Rahman, participated in protests by PFI and its political affiliate Social Democratic Party of India can't be a ground to deny bail under PMLA, the court said. It also noted that ED could show only a transaction of just over Rs 3 lakh being probed while it had claimed the amount was Rs 32 crore.

Incarceration for an indeterminate period would go against "fundamental principles governing personal liberty", the court said. It also pointed out that Rahman's role in the allegations appeared limited. "As regards the allegation that the petitioner participated in protests organised by PFI against the ban imposed on that organisation, and that he was allegedly involved in an incident of throwing a petrol bomb...those allegations, even if taken at their face value, pertain to a period prior to PFI being declared an 'unlawful association'," Justice Anup J Bhambhani said Friday. The court said taking part in protests then—even if deemed unseemly—cannot, at this stage, justify denying bail in a PMLA case, especially when allegations centre on financial transactions by the petitioner.

Kerala min vows action over 'missing' valuables from Padmanabhaswamy shrine

Times News Network

T'puram: Kerala's Devaswom minister K Muraleedharan has said the state govt would decide on further action regarding the reported disappearance of valuable items from Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in the state capital after consultations with the home minister. He said the govt has sought a report from the temple's administrative committee and the action would be based on that report as well.

The minister emphasized that all accounts related to the temple should be transparent and stated that the govt had no objection to any form of investigation into the matter.

Several valuable items, including a diamond-studded ornament kept inside the sanctum sanctorum, a gold lamp and other gold articles weighing approximately 78g, have allegedly gone missing from the temple over the past six-seven months. The temple administration has strongly disputed a police report that the valuable items had gone missing from the shrine.

The temple administration also plans to seek action against the police officers who prepared the report, claiming its findings are factually incorrect. The report was submitted by an ADGP to the additional chief secretary (home) on behalf of the state police chief. The controversy has intensified following the temple administration's refusal to disclose details of govt funds.

BTech student loses vision in assault by 'outsider' in engg college campus

Thiruvananthapuram: A second-year BTech student (21) has lost vision in his left eye after he was allegedly assaulted by "outsiders" during a college fest at a private engineering college in Thiruvananthapuram's Venjaramoodu on May 24, prompting police to register a case against four members of an alleged local gang.

"I was hit directly in the eye with a hard, bangle-like object. The people who attacked me were not students of the college. They appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and drugs," Al Ameen said. A group of outsiders entered the college campus through a gate near a mosque during a programme organised to honour alumni, which featured cultural performances by students, a source said. A clash reportedly broke out between the visitors and students.

Ameen's brother, Ajmal, alleged that a local gang entered the campus armed with weapons, including knives, and assaulted students. He claimed that several other students were also injured in the violence. TNN

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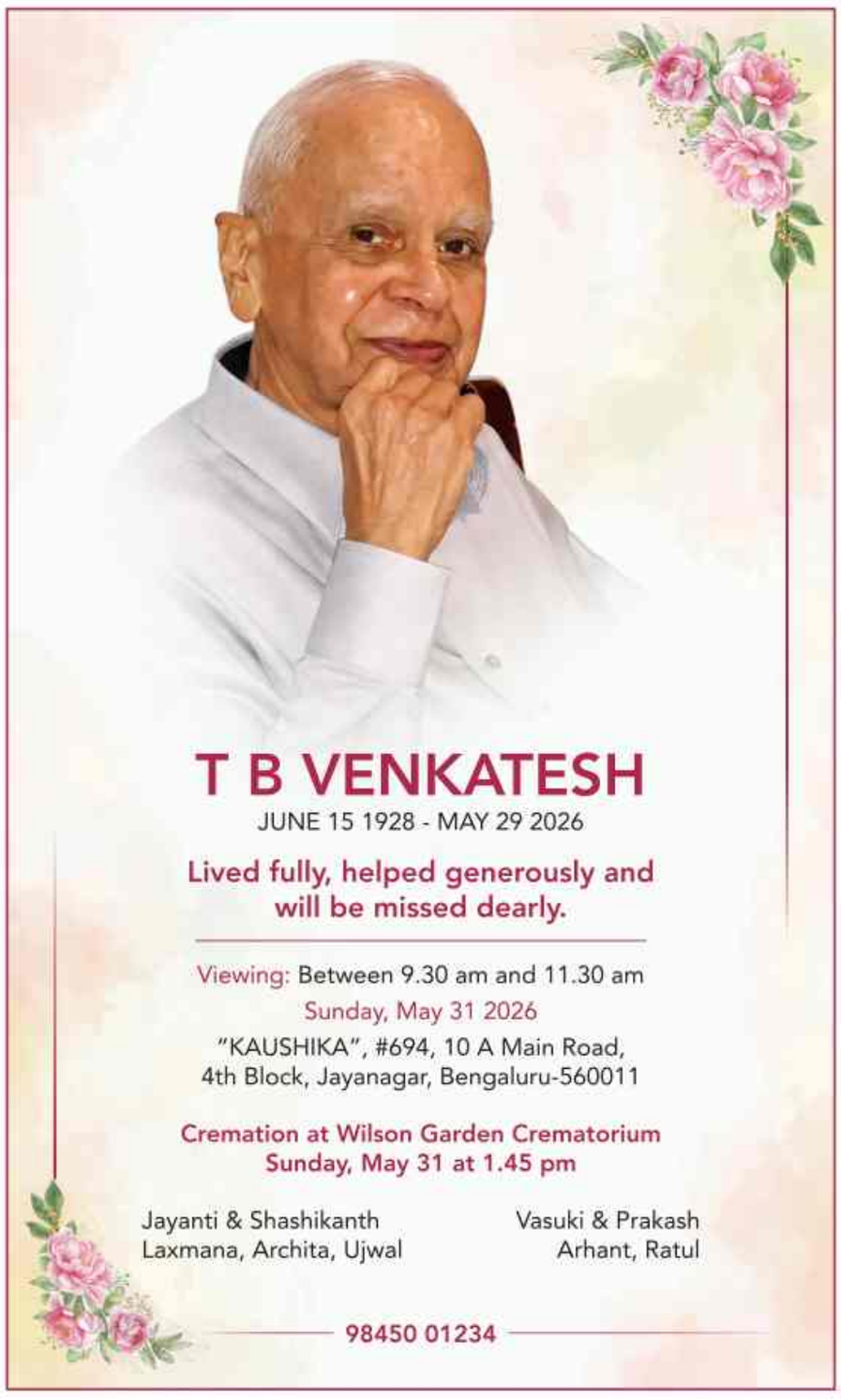

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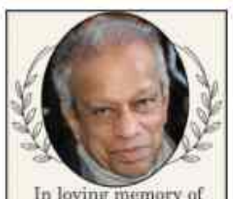

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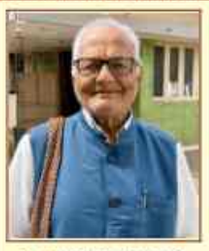

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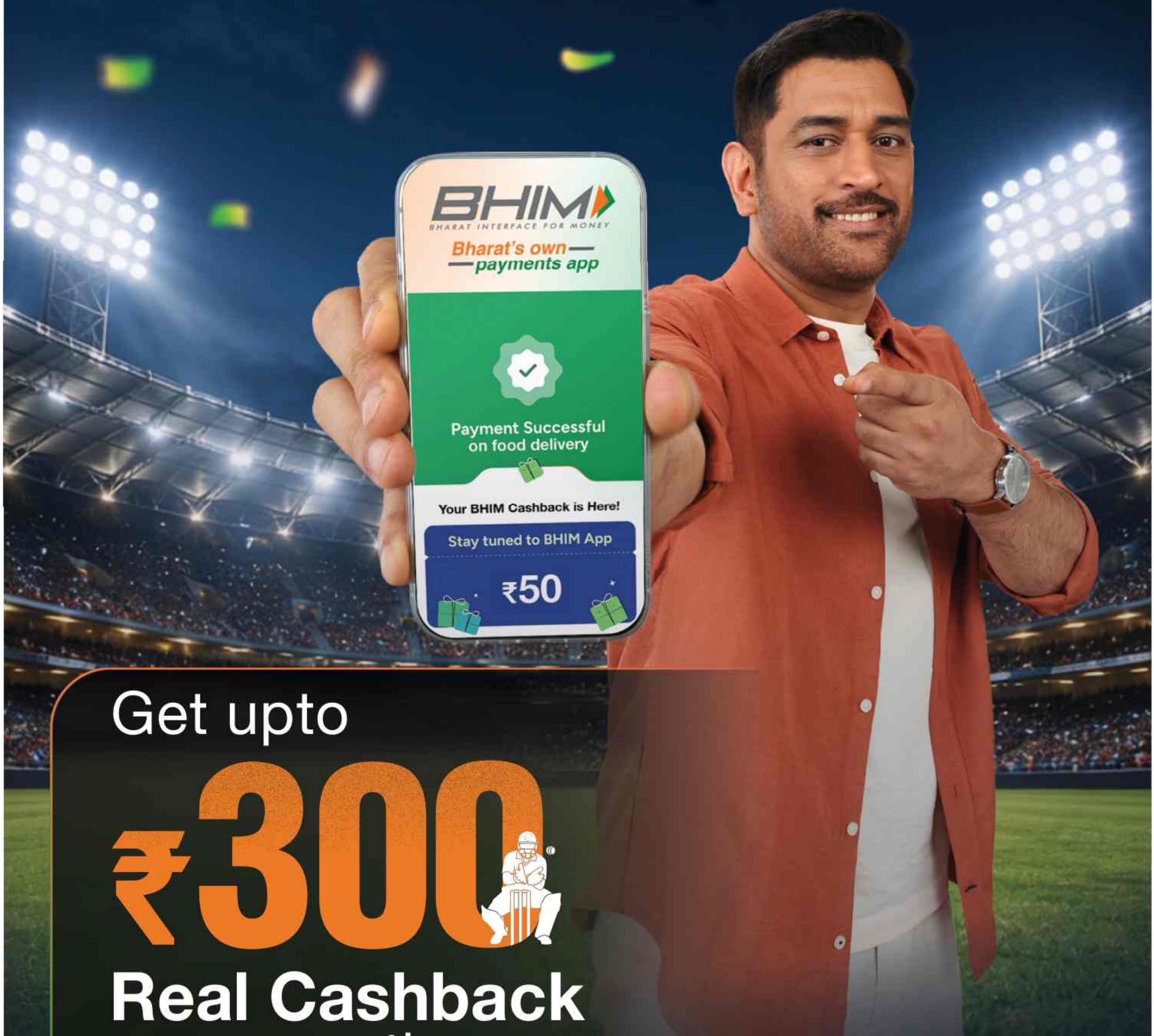

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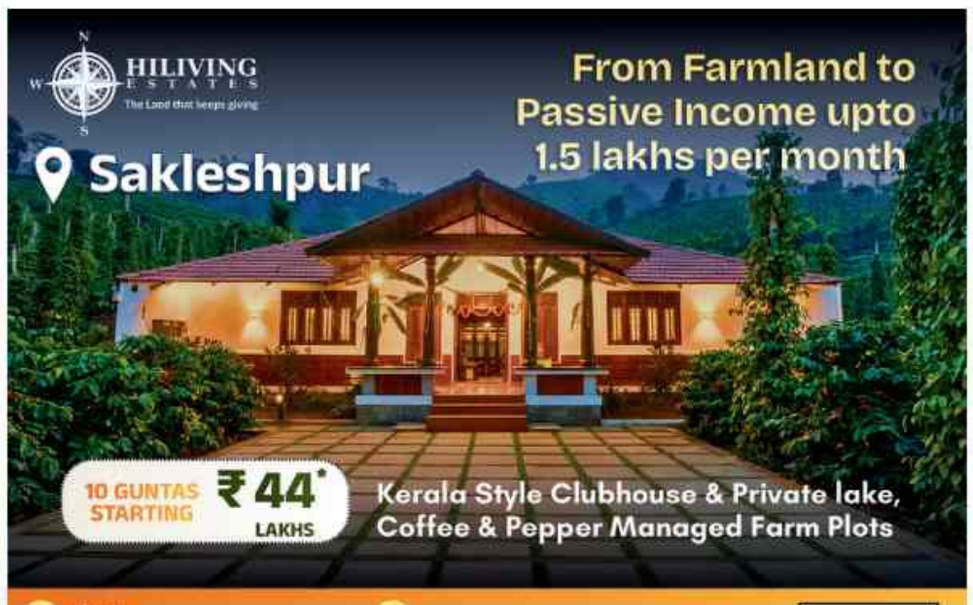

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FOR SALE: BBMP A KATHA SITES FOR SALE @ KENGERI, 500 MTR FROM METRO STATION WITH CAUVERY WATER. CONT : 9606342643

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CONATCT:9900322277
Brokers excuse

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80 feet Road,
100% Vasthu
BDA Site for Sale

NAGARABHAVI BDA Complex 40x60 East facing Site 60 feet Road Excellent Location Imediate Regstr 9448432633 / 7022218837

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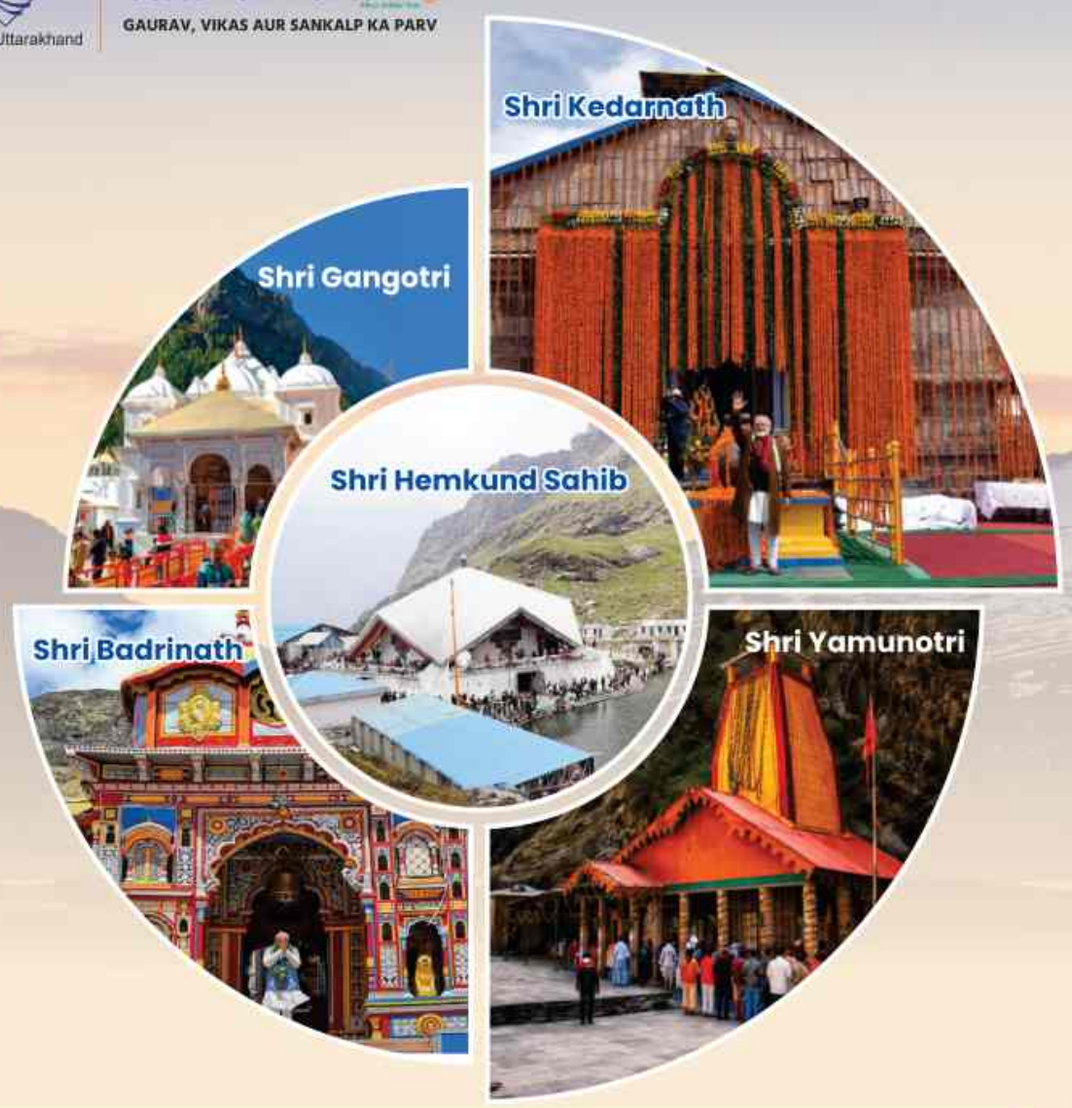
Govt. of Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand 25
GAURAV, VIKAS AUR SANKALP KA PARV



Devbhoomi Uttarakhand

VIKAS BHI, VIRASAT BHI

Divine and Majestic Chardham Yatra

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL DEVOTEES

SPIRITUAL AND NATURAL ATTRACTIONS NEAR THE CHAR DHAM ROUTE

1 Near Yamunotri

Janki Chatti & Hanuman Chatti, Kharsali Village, Saptarishi Kund, Lakhamandal, Kedarkantha Trek, Rana Chatti.

2 Near Kedarnath

Bhairavnath Temple, Vasuki Tal, Gaurikund, Triyuginarayan Temple, Chopta - Tungnath - Chandra Shila, Deoria Tal.

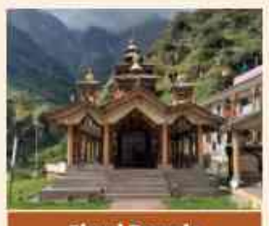
3 Near Gangotri

Gaumukh Trek, Bhojbasa & Tapovan, Surya Kund & Gauri Kund, Harsil Valley, Mukhimath (Mukhba), Dayara Bugyal Trek, Gartang Gali, Kashi Vishwanath Temple (Uttarkashi), Nachiketa Tal & Dodital.

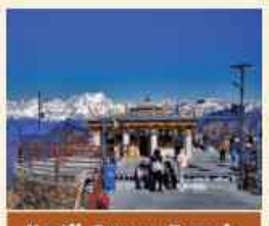
4 Near Badrinath

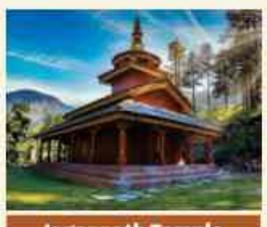
Mana Village, Vyas Gufa & Ganesh Gufa, Bhimsila, Auli, Valley of Flowers, Vasudhara Falls, Charanpaduka, Tapt Kund & Narad Kund, Jyotirmath (Joshimath), Satopanth Lake, Pandukeshwar, Adibadri Temple, Hemkund Sahib.

Ganesha Temple
Dodital Uttarkashi

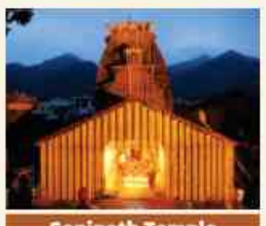

Shani Temple
Kharsali Uttarkashi

Kandolia Temple
Pauri Garhwal


Kartik Swamy Temple
Rudraprayag


Jagannath Temple
Uttarkashi

Jawalpa Devi Temple
Pauri Garhwal


Gopinath Temple
Gopeshwar, Chamoli

Kamleshwar Mahadev Temple
Srinagar Pauri Garhwal

Katarmal Sun Temple
Almora

Jageshwar Dham
Almora

Golu Devta Temple
Almora

Dunagiri Temple
Dwarahat, Almora

"The Honourable Prime Minister has termed the third decade of the 21st century as the 'Decade of Uttarakhand.' In line with the Prime Minister's vision, we are working with an 'unwavering commitment' (Vikalp Rahit Sankalp) to make the state an ideal state in every field."

Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Important Information

Mandatory Registration: Registration is compulsory before commencing the Yatra.
Verify Contact Details: Please ensure you enter the correct mobile number during registration.
Be Prepared for Weather: Carry adequate woolen clothes, an umbrella, and a raincoat.
Accurate Health Data: Provide precise health information during the registration process.
Senior Citizen Advisory: Senior citizens are advised to undergo a medical check-up before starting the journey.
Medication: If you are on prescribed medication, carry a sufficient stock of your medicines.
Acclimatisation: Take frequent breaks at various transit points along the route to acclimatize to the high-altitude climate.
Health First: If you feel unwell, please do not proceed with the journey.
Beware of Scams: Avoid unauthorised individuals claiming to facilitate 'Darshan' at the shrines.
Keep Tracks Clean: Cooperate with us in keeping the pilgrimage routes clean; do not litter.
Safe Driving: Maintain controlled vehicle speed and park only in designated parking areas.
No Plastic: Strictly avoid the use of single-use plastic.

Modes of Registration

Visit the website or scan the QR Code:
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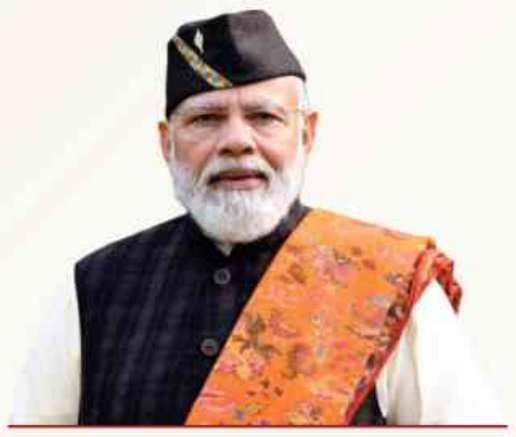

My dear Countrymen,

The sacred Chardham Yatra has commenced in the holy land of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand. This divine pilgrimage to the four shrines, including the darshan of Baba Kedar, is a magnificent celebration of India's eternal (Sanatan) cultural consciousness. Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya gave a new direction to Indian culture through his pilgrimages to Badrinath and Kedarnath. Similarly, Jagadguru Ramanujacharya and Jagadguru Madhvacharya also visited Badrinath to enrich their spiritual philosophies.

Even today, these four shrines nestled in the lap of the Himalayas remain divine centers of our eternal faith and belief. Every year, people belonging to diverse languages, traditions, and cultures come here, further strengthening the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. This year's Yatra is an extension of that very tradition.

Our scriptures state:

अग्निष्टोमादिभिर्यज्ञैरिष्ट्वा विपुलदक्षिणैः।
न तत्फलमवाप्नोति तीर्थाभिगमनेन यत्॥

Meaning: The immense merit (Punya) earn through grand Yagyas (sacrificial rituals) and charity is profound. However, the merit obtained through a pilgrimage (Tirtha Yatra) is even greater than that gained through those rituals.

In the resolve for a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India), the role of a 'Viksit Uttarakhand' is extremely vital. A few years ago, at the gateway of Baba Kedar, I had said that this decade would be the 'Decade of Uttarakhand.' Today, the progress of Uttarakhand is turning that belief into reality. Uttarakhand is setting new benchmarks in all three sectors: tourism, spirituality, and economic growth.

The great ritual of development (Vikas ka Mahayagya) that has been underway in Uttarakhand for the past few years has made the Chardham Yatra more accessible, safer, and divine than ever before. This is providing great convenience to the visiting devotees, saints, and tourists. In all these efforts, every care is being taken to preserve the natural beauty of Uttarakhand.

I would also urge every guest visiting Uttarakhand to truly enjoy this new experience. During your journey, I encourage all travellers to observe a "Digital Fast" and strive to live within the natural beauty of Uttarakhand. This will provide you with a unique sense of satisfaction.

Historically, we have always traveled from our homes to Devbhoomi for the Chardham Yatra with a specific resolve. In this spirit, I wish to urge you to take Five Resolves (Panch Sankalp):

First Resolve – Cleanliness is Paramount: Maintain cleanliness within and around the shrines. Contribute your part to keeping the rivers clean. Take a pledge for a journey free of single-use plastic and uphold the dignity of this sacred land.

Second Resolve – Sensitivity towards Nature and Environment: Be sensitive toward this divine Himalayan land. While maintaining the balance of nature, contribute to environmental conservation through initiatives like 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (A Tree in Mother's Name).

Third Resolve – Emphasis on Service, Cooperation, and Unity: Since ancient times, our pilgrimages have been a medium for universal service and social harmony. Even today, people serve pilgrims with this same spirit. I urge every pilgrim visiting the Chardham to perform at least one act of service every day of their journey. Help your fellow travellers and connect with people coming from different parts of the country. By participating in their traditions, strengthen the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' through this pilgrimage.

Fourth Resolve – Promoting 'Vocal for Local': From the time you leave your home until you return, ensure that you spend at least five percent of your total travel budget on purchasing local products. Even if a local item is not immediately needed in this season, try to buy it for future use.

Fifth Resolve – Adherence to Discipline, Safety, and Decorum: Follow the rules of the journey and traffic instructions. As a responsible and alert citizen, make this pilgrimage safe and accessible. Let us ensure that our journey does not cause any inconvenience to the people involved in the organisation and management of this Yatra.

In recent years, a large number of creators and influencers have started visiting the Chardham. I urge all of you to make an effort to share the local stories of Uttarakhand and its small, unique traditions with the masses.

May the blessings of Baba Kedar and all the four shrines infuse your life with new energy, new inspiration, and new resolutions. This is my wish for you.

My heartiest best wishes to all of you for a successful, safe, divine, and soulful journey.

Yours

Narendra Modi

Panch Kedar
1. Kedarnath
2. Tungnath
3. Rudranath
4. Madhmaheshwar
5. Kalpeswar

Panch Prayag
1. Devprayag
2. Rudraprayag
3. Karnprayag
4. Nandprayag
5. Vishnuprayag

Panch Badri
1. Vishal Badri
2. Yogdarshan Badri
3. Bhavya Badri
4. Vradha Badri
5. Aadi Badri

Use only the official portal for Helicopter Bookings To Avoid any Fraud
www.heliyatra.irctc.co.in

During the Chardham Yatra, you can also visit and experience the divine Panch Kedar, Panch Prayag and Panch Badri. In the Panch Badri, Lord Vishnu is worshipped in various unique forms

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SC: Child's right to know father outweighs privacy

Directs Man To Take DNA Test In Paternity Suit

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Putting a child's right to know about his biological father on a higher pedestal in comparison to a person's right to privacy not to be compelled to undergo a DNA test, Supreme Court has directed a man to go through the test on a paternity suit filed by a youth who claims to be his biological son.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N K Singh adjudicated a tricky issue--whose rights would prevail in paternity test battle --the right to privacy of a man not to undergo DNA test or the right of a child to know about his father? The court held that balance of interests lies in favour of the child and passed order in his favour. It rejected the plea of the man who resisted the test on the ground that he did not have a physical relationship with the child's mother.

The court noted that the mother of the youth had also fought a long legal battle against him for getting her due and maintenance for the son which ended in Supreme Court and matters became infructuous as the son became a major by the time the case reached the apex court. The man, however, told the court that he was given a clean chit in the rape case filed against him by her and it should put to rest all allegation. Refusing to examine the nature of the relationship between them which was not the issue before it, the court decided the case from the perspective of youth's legitimate interest in knowing his biological father.

The youth, who is now 26-years old, submitted that there is no other recourse available to determine the question of paternity in view of the continuous denial by his father. He filed suit for declaration of paternity and share in property.

"Although there have been findings that state that the second respondent has been unable to establish any link between CP and Pankaj (name changed), those findings were not as a consequence of the full-dress trial. The civil suit filed by Pankaj is for this very purpose and as such, the question of paternity is directly in issue. On this count as well, we find in favour of the respondent (youth)," it said. The SC bench also said that the balance of interests definitely lies in favour of the youth.

BLOWS RAIN ON ABHISHEK

PTI

TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee faced a bruising day of political turbulence Saturday, coming under attack from protesters in Kolkata and receiving a CID summons in a fake-signature probe. Banerjee, 38, was chased, abused and assaulted by a crowd while trying to reach the home of a TMC worker killed in post-poll violence in Sonarpur. Protesters shouted 'chor, chor', hurled eggs, stones and slippers, tore his shirt, assaulted him, and broke his spectacles during a 10-minute attack. Banerjee was escorted by party workers to Sanju Karmakar's house and remained inside for more than an hour. Security forces later escorted him out

SC commuted life term to 18 yrs in jail already served by convict

▸ Continued from page 1

Trials in the two cases lodged at police stations in Civil Lines and Alipur were clubbed together only in 2008, and the sessions court convicted the accused of murder and awarded them life imprisonment in 2009. Their appeals were dismissed by Delhi HC in 2013. One of the convicts, Gopi Chand, aka Pappu, appealed against the conviction and life term before SC in 2013.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra heard the final arguments in the case on Feb 27 last year and reserved its verdict. The judgment remained pending with Justice Misra for 15 months.

Delivering a judgment on Friday after keeping it reserved for 15 months, Justice Manoj Misra said prosecution has succeeded in establishing that five persons had conspired to steal the truck by first hiring it and then murdering the driver and the helper. "We therefore uphold the conviction of the appellant for the offences for which he has been convicted by the trial court and the HC," the bench said. However, it commuted the life sentence to 18 years of jail term already served by the convict. On April 12, TOI had reported how Justice Misra had delivered verdicts in two cases after reserving the judgment for 17 and 11 months. In another case, he delivered a verdict in Feb this year after keeping it reserved for 14 months.

On Friday, the CJI Surya Kant-led bench, while fixing a timeline for expeditious pronouncement of reserved verdicts by HCs, had said, "The right to life and personal liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution is not confined to the expeditious conduct of a trial. It extends to every stage of the proceeding and is as much violated by such delay in pronouncing a reserved judgment as by a denial of the right to be heard."

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tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that my client is proposed to purchase the agricultural property bearing No. 38/10 measuring **26 Guntas,** situated at **Tharalu Estate Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk.** The schedule property mentioned hereunder, from its owner **Sri. Sridhar R.**

Persons objecting for the proposed purchase of having any rights in the schedule property may lodge their objections and for claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **7 days** from the date of this publications and objections for claims reserved thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned properties as if there are no claimants or objections.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of agricultural property bearing **No. 38/10** measuring **26 Guntas,** situated at **Tharalu Estate Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk,** bounded on the :

East by : Road / Property bearing in Sy. No. 39, West by : Land in Sy. No. 38/6 belongs to the sister of Sridhar R Sy. No., North by : Land in Sy. No. 38/5, South by : Road facing lake.

M.L. GOWDA & ASSOCIATES
Advocates
No. 165, 1st Floor, 6th Main, Jayanagar, 4th Block, Bengaluru-560 011.
Ph: 9845493719
Email: mlgchatra@gmail.com

jobs

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohanraj, S/o Manohar, residing at No:21, Mohana ammal illam, Fortuna Residency, Karibasavanapuram village, Hosur - 635109, hereby declare that the name of my father has been incorrectly recorded as Manohar in my passport. I have corrected it to Manoharan in all my documents. Henceforth, my father will be known as Manoharan for all purposes, vide Affidavit No. FK749349 dated 29/May/2026 sworn before Notary Public, K.Mathialagan, Hosur.

I, Ankita Pratik Soni W/o Pratik Nareshkumar Soni have changed the name of my son Marmik to Marmik Pratik Soni R/o B001 Sapthagiri Sandalwoods, belathur kadugodi bengaluru vide Affidavit dated 28.05.2026 before Notary Bengaluru.

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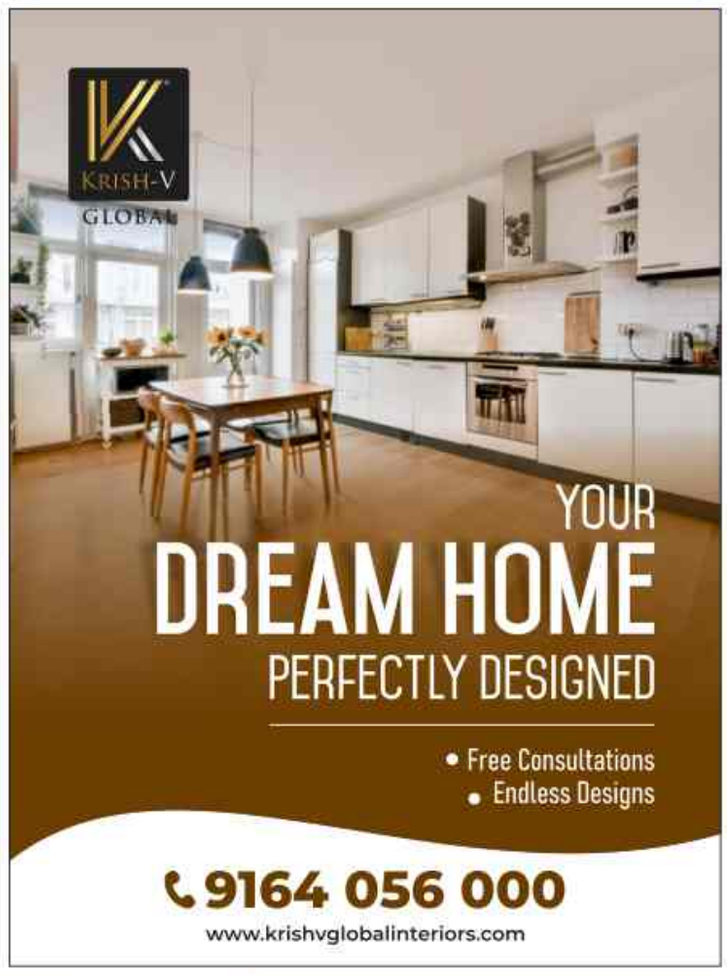

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Hallel Music School Founder Mr. Augustine Dandingi presented certificates to the achievers and congratulated them for their dedication and achievement.

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RE-ADVERTISEMENT - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS / NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR
Advt. No. 13 / 2026, Dt. 30.05.2026

RRI invites Applications / Nominations, from eminent Academicians / Researchers with substantial experience and achievements in the area of Physical Sciences for the **Position of Director,** who is an Indian National. The Director is the Chief Executive and Academic Officer of the Institute and will have the overall administrative control of the Institute and will provide high-level leadership to the Institute in identification of research programmes and projects of national and international relevance in various specialized fields of research undertaken by the Institute.

The incumbent will be appointed on Direct Recruitment / Deputation, including short-term Contract / Re-Employment. The present age of superannuation is 60 years. The Applicant's / Nominee's age should not exceed **56 years** and she / he should be an Indian Citizen. The crucial date for determining the age limit is **01 January 2026. The position carries the apex scale of Pay Level 17, i.e. ₹ 2,25,000/- per month** as per the Revised Pay Rules, 2016 of the Government of India.

The Last Date for Receipt of Applications / Nominations is 30 June 2026.

The detailed advertisement can be viewed at
https://www.rri.res.in/ careers/ regular-other-openings

IndianOil
CIN-L23201MH1959GOI011388

PUBLIC TENDER

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. plans to onboard suitable alliance partner(s) for developing, operating and maintaining Non-fuel Retail (NFR) facilities at Wayside Amenities (WSA) sites located on Delhi-Amritsar Katra Expressway (Haryana State) under Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model. Interested Parties may refer to the detailed tender document with auction ID: 34867 (Reference No.: MnC/RS-1/PT-14/26-27) which is available in 'Forward option tab' on GeM Portal (Website: https://gem.gov.in). Last date for submission of application is 26/06/2027 at 23.00 hrs.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
Local Head Office, Guwahati
Premises & Estate Department
Dispur, Guwahati - 781006

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR COMPOSITE WORKS COMPRISING CIVIL, SANITARY & PLUMBING, INTERIOR & FURNITURE AND ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION WORKS FOR THE RENOVATION OF SBI, LOCAL HEAD OFFICE, GUWAHATI IN PHASED MANNER

EOI from eligible contractors are invited for pre-qualification for the above work. Pre-qualification criteria and other documents can be downloaded from Bank's website https://sbi.bank.in/ >>>SBI IN THE NEWS under "Procurement News". The last date of submission of the application is **26.06.2026 upto 3.00 P.M.** The Bank reserves its right to accept or reject any or all the application without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever.

Guwahati
Date: 31.05.2026

Sd/- Assistant General Manager
(Premises & Estate)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public are hereby informed that my client HLC BUILDER & CONTRACTOR Rep. by its Proprietor, Sri.K.Hari Babu Naidu, having its registered office at No. 194, Sai Residency, Royal County Layout, J.P. Nagar, 8th Phase, Bangalore – 560 076, intending to purchase the schedule property from its owners Smt.B.Geetha Baliga D/o. Sri.M.Gopala Krishna Baliga and grand son Sri.Suraj Baliga.

Any person/s company Financial Institution, Firm etc, having any claim or objection for the proposed purchase or having any right, title or interest in the Schedule Property may contact or should lodge such claim and objection in writing with supporting documents within FIFTEEN DAYS from the date of publication failing which it will be presumed that there are no valid claims charges and encumbrance whatsoever over the Schedule Property and my client would proceed to complete the sale transaction, any claim received Lodged thereafter will not be considered.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Converted land bearing Sy. No.6/4, Converted from Agricultural to Non-Agricultural residential purpose Vide Official Memorandum bearing No.ALN(SU)SR/113/2006-07, dated: 27.01.2009, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, Situated at Gottigere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Presently comes under the limits of BBMP, having New BBMP Katha No.478/6/4 and E-PID No.5200491882, Ward No.194-Gottigere, measuring 0-23 Guntas, and bounded on: East by: Land belongs to Sri.Kaverappa (Presently BDA Layout) West by: 30 Feet Road, North by: Remaining Portion of same Sy. No.6/4, South by: Govt Land (Halla).

A.M.GAJENDRA, Advocate
No.2, 3rd Cross, 3rd Main, Srinivasanagar, Kathriguppe Main Road, Bangalore-560 085.
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No:SPLOCA/ADM/CLM/02/2026-27 **Date: 29.05.2026**

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR CALLING RELATING TO OF M/s SPEAK AND GROUP COMPANIES

Public Notice under Section 7(2) of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors In Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE) calling for submission of claims from the **Secured creditors and depositors of M/s SPEAK AND GROUP COMPANIES.**

Claim forms will be issued at the **Office of the Special Officer, & Competent Authority, (IMA & Other KPID Cases) 4th Floor, podium block, Vishveshwariah Tower, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Road, Bengaluru-560001** to the depositor/authorized representative /nominee and in the absence of the nominee, the power of attorney holder on production of identity proof and proof of investment such as original copies of Bonds, official letter and POA documents.

Starting date of issuing claim applications	**01/06/2026**	**10-00 AM**
Last date for submission of claim applications	**30/06/2026**	**05-30 PM**

For further details and list of documents to be submitted kindly visit https://sploca.org/

Sd/- Joint Secretary & Competent Authority
M/s Speak and Group Companies

DIPR/CP/911/CCL/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
Office of the RO, National Cooperative Union of India/ District Magistrate (South), M.B. Road, Saket, New Delhi-110068

ELECTION NOTICE

In exercise of the powers conferred upon me as the Returning Officer appointed by the Cooperative Election Authority, Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India under Rule 19F (a) and Rule 19 H (3) of the MSCS Rules 2002, as amended with MSCS Rules in 2023 vide Order No. CEA-12011/253/2026 dated 7th May, 2026, notice is hereby given under Rule 19 H (4) and Rule 19 I (3) of the MSCS Rules 2002, as amended with MSCS Rules in 2023 that the election for the Members of Governing Council and Office Bearers of the "National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)" will be held in accordance with the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 as amended in 2023, and rules framed thereunder and the provisions contained in the applicable Bye-laws of NCUI. The detailed election programme can be downloaded from the official website of NCUI i.e.www.ncui.coop.

LAKSHAY SINGHAL, IAS
Returning Officer, NCUI

TELANGANA STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
Regd. Office: "B" Block, #6-3-655/1/A, Civil Supplies Bhavan, Somajiguda, Hyderabad-500 082, Telangana

SHORT RE E TENDER NOTICE

PDS.II (3) / Coarse Variety (DB) /2025-26 Dt:29.05.2026.

Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (TGSCSCL) invites Short Re e- tenders **for disposal of 0.40 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMTs) of Coarse Variety Rice (FRK - Doddubiyyam) on "As Is Where Is" basis,** available at **MLS Points, and Fair Price (FP) Shops** across the State, through e-auction on the **GeM Portal.**

The **Tender Documents** can be downloaded from **01.06.2026 at 11:00 AM.** The **Pre-Bid Meeting** will be held on **03.06.2026 at 3:00 PM** at 3rd floor Conference Hall **TG Civil Supplies Bhavan, Hyderabad.**

For further details, please visit the websites: **https://tgscscl.telangana.gov.in** and **www.gem.gov.in** Prospective bidders are advised to carefully go through the **tender terms and conditions** before submitting their bids.

Sd/-
VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR

DIPR R.O. No. : 189-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27, Date: 30-05-2026.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SMART GOVERNMENT (NISG)
(a Section 8 organisation of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India)
BHARAT DPI EXPERIENCE CENTRE (B-DEC)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

NISG, a not-for-profit organisation working under the MeitY, GoI invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) for establishing the **"Bharat DPI Experience Centre (B-DEC)"**, India's Premier Sandbox & Showcase Hub for Digital Public Infrastructure, through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and/ or Philanthropic funding from corporations, public sector enterprises, foundations, and philanthropic institutions. The last date of EOI submission is 22nd June 2026.

The details of the EOI can be downloaded from the website **www.nisg.org.**

Sd/- **Akhil Kumar, IPS,**
Chief Executive Officer, NISG

Council of Architecture
Ministry of Education, Government of India

NATA 2026
CHOOSE ARCHITECTURE
बनें राष्ट्र निर्माण के भागीदार

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

CONDUCT OF NATA 2026 FOR ADMISSION TO B.ARCH. COURSE

The Council of Architecture is conducting the National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) 2026 for admission to the First Year of the 5-Year B.Arch. Degree Programme. Registration for NATA 2026 Phase-1 is currently open and will close on **09.06.2026. The last examination under Phase-1 is scheduled to be held on 13.06.2026.**

The scores obtained in Phase-1 shall be considered for admission to B.Arch. programmes through the Centralized Admission Process (CAP) Counselling conducted by various admission authorities across States and Union Territories. **Candidates aspiring to pursue the B.Arch. Degree Programme are advised to complete their registration for NATA 2026 at the earliest, well before the closing date.**

WHO CAN APPLY?

12TH PASSED OR APPEARED STUDENTS WITH PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS AS COMPULSORY SUBJECTS ALONG WITH EITHER CHEMISTRY OR BIOLOGY OR TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL SUBJECT OR COMPUTER SCIENCE OR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OR INFORMATICS PRACTICES OR ENGINEERING GRAPHICS OR BUSINESS STUDIES OR DIPLOMA STUDENTS WITH MATHEMATICS, SCORING ATLEAST 45% AGGREGATE, IN EACH CASE.

The NATA 2026 brochure containing eligibility criteria, syllabus and list of institutions admitting students to B.Arch. programme based on NATA score along with other important details is available on **www.nata.in** and **www.coa.gov.in.**

A candidate may appear in a maximum of two attempts. NATA 2026 score shall be valid for 2026-2027 academic year only.

www.nata.in

New Delhi
Date : 31.05.2026

Registrar

34001/267/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
RFP Identification No. CE-Roads-I-03/2026-27

1. The Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Roads-I, Odisha (Authority) on behalf of the Works Department, Govt. of Odisha is engaged in the Development of State Roads and Highways in Odisha, and, as part of this endeavour, Govt. of Odisha has decided to undertake the following "**Projects**" under **EPC Contract** (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) basis, and has decided to carry out the bid process for selection of the parties/Joint Ventures to whom the Project may be awarded eventually.

2.	Nature of project	: Road work
3.	No. of project	: 2 Nos.
4.	Tender Paper cost	: Rs.10,000.00
5.	Available of bid document in the website	: From 10.00 A.M. of 04.06.2026 to 5.30 P.M. of 01.07.2026
6.	Date of Pre-Application conference	: 12.06.2026 at 12.30 P.M.
7.	Date of opening of Bid	: Dt.02.07.2026 at 11.30 A.M.

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Roads-I, Odisha
OIPR-34001/34181/1/26-27/0009

11001/72/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
TENDER CALL NOTICE
HE-MC-MISC-0037-2025/28348 Dt 30.05.2026

(**For** AI-Enabled Examination Security, Surveillance and Ancillary Support Services during Conduct of Multiple Examinations)

Sealed tenders are invited from eligible and experienced agencies for AI-Enabled Examination Security, Surveillance and Ancillary Support Services during Conduct of Multiple Examinations, by the Department of Higher Education, Government of Odisha. The last date and time for submission of the quotation is on or before **25.06.2026**.

For More details, Please visit our official website **https://dhe.odisha.gov.in**

NOTE: **The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.**

Sd/-
Director, Higher Education
OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0008

28001/10/2627

ODISHA SPACE APPLICATIONS CENTRE (ORSAC)
(Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Odisha)
Plot No.45/48(P), Jayadev Vihar, Unit-16, Bhubaneswar-751023,
Tel. 0674-2303625/2913625,
E-mail: orsac@odisha.gov.in / orsac.od@od.gov.in / orsac2012@gmail.com
ADVT. NO. 03 / 2026 Dt. 30/05/2026

Odisha Space Applications Centre (ORSAC) a State Government Agency under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Odisha, invites applications from eligible candidates from Central Government/ State Governments/Universities/ Recognized Research Institutions/ Public Sector Undertaking organizations for filling up of 07 (Seven) posts of **SCIENTIST 'C'** on Deputation Basis for a period of three years. The application form containing the educational qualifications & experience profile, age limit, experience, detail service period, Scale of Pay, and selection procedure and other terms & conditions details can be downloaded from ORSAC Website (**https://orsac.odisha.gov.in**) or Govt. Website (**www.odisha.gov.in**) or can also be available from the office of ORSAC on the above address. The last date of submission of the application is **30/06/2026**.

Sd/-
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OIPR-28001/28007/1/26-27/0002

28001/9/2627

ODISHA SPACE APPLICATIONS CENTRE (ORSAC)
(Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Odisha)
Plot No.45/48(P), Jayadev Vihar, Unit-16, Bhubaneswar-751023
Tel. 0674-2303625/ 2913625
E-mail: orsac@odisha.gov.in / orsac.od@od.gov.in / orsac2012@gmail.com
ADVT. NO. 04 / 2026 Dt. 30/05/2026

Odisha Space Applications Centre (ORSAC) a State Government Agency under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Odisha, invites applications from eligible candidates from Central Government/ State Governments/Universities/ Recognized Research Institutions/ Public Sector Undertaking organizations for filling up of 01 (one) posts of **SCIENTIST 'D'** on Deputation Basis for a period of three years. The application form containing the educational qualifications & experience profile, age limit, experience, detail service period, Scale of Pay, and selection procedure and other terms & conditions details can be downloaded from ORSAC Website (**https://orsac.odisha.gov.in**) or Govt. Website (**www.odisha.gov.in**) or can also be available from the office of ORSAC on the above address. The last date of submission of the application is **30/06/2026**.

Sd/-
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OIPR-28001/28007/1/26-27/0001

25001/267/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, RAYAGADA
Email ID - ccerwcrayagada@gmail.com

Letter No. 1710 **Date : 27.05.2026**

2nd Corrigendum to Bid identification No. Online Tender/ NCB - 05 / RWCRGDA / 2026-27

In partial modification to the above Bid Identification with reference to the Letter No. 18845, dtd. 21.05.2026 of the Chief Engineer (PMGSY), Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for Online receipt of the Tender Paper Cost & EMD in the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) for PMGSY Tenders, the Tender Paper Cost & EMD are to be transferred by the bidders through Online only for the works under PMGSY-IV as stated below:

Sl. No.	Corrigendum for	Provision kept in TCN:	Now modified with :
1	Tender Paper Cost & EMD as per Sl. No. 3 & 5 of TCN	The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in shape of Fixed Deposit Receipt / Term Deposit Receipt pledged in favour of concerned R.W. Superintending Engineer / Executive Engineer and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provision of Clause 4.4B(a) (ii) of ITB with Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Rayagada // Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division, Rayagada on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand (17.06.2026 upto 12.00 Noon).	1. Tender Paper Cost : The bidder shall transfer the Tender Paper Cost @ Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) per set (Nonrefundable) through **Online only** as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN for 168 Nos. of works out of total 175 Nos. Bidder shall transfer the Tender Paper Cost @ Rs. 6,000/- (Rupees Six Thousand Only) per set (Non-refundable) through **Online only** for 07 (Seven) Nos. of Works i.e Work Sl. No. 23, 34, 88, 94, 113,128 &158. 2. EMD : The bidder shall transfer the EMD through **Online only** @ 2% of the amount as specified for the work in the table Col No. 10 in the Annexure of NIT. 3. **Online Tendering Process:** The entire tendering process shall be completed through **Online mode** with no Offline submission of Tender Paper Cost & EMD.
2	Date of availability of tender	19.05.2026 to 10.06.2026 upto 5.30 PM.	4. 29.05.2026 to 19.06.2026 upto 5.30 PM
3	Date of opening of Technical Bid.	11.06.2026 at 12.00 Noon	5. 20.06.2026 at 12.00 Noon

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
R W Circle, Rayagada
OIPR-25001/25196/1/26-27/0010

राष्ट्रीय मात्स्यिकी विकास बोर्ड
National Fisheries Development Board
मत्स्यपालन विभाग/Department of Fisheries
मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय /Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
भारत सरकार /Government of India
स्तम्भ संख्या-235, पी.वी.एन.आर एक्सप्रेस वे, डाक-एस.वी.पी.एन.पी. ए. हैदराबाद- 500052
Pillar No: 235, PVNR Expressway, SVPNPA Post, Hyderabad-500 052
फ़ोन/ Phone No. 040- 24000201; फैक्स/ Fax No: 040-2401 5568; मेल/ Mail: info.nfdb@nic.in

A-12.0015.0/1/2024-Budg_acc Date: 31-05-2026

WALK IN INTERVIEW NOTIFICATION

Walk-in-Interview will be held at 09:30 AM on 09th June, 2026 (Tuesday) mentioned below for engaging consultants on contractual basis:

For details/eligibility criteria for the post and application proforma; please scan for detailed notification:

Sl. No.	Division	Name of the Position	No. of Posts	Place of Posting
1	Technical	Consultant - I	01	Department of Fisheries, New Delhi
2	PMU- FIDF	Monitoring Assistant	01	NFDB, Hyderabad
3	Official Language (Hindi)	Consultant Grade – I	01	
4	Administration and Finance	Consultant Grade-II	01	NFDB-NFFBB, Bhubaneswar
5	Technical	Consultant Grade-II	01	

(Sd/-)
Executive Director (F&A) i/c

JAAP-PG 2026

School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi | Bhopal | Vijayawada
Institutions of National Importance under the SPA Act 2014 established by
Ministry of Education, Government of India

Joint Admission for Architecture and Planning – Post Graduate (JAAP-PG) 2026
SPECIAL ROUND

Applications are invited for admission to various postgraduate degree courses at three Institutions, namely; **School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi; School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal and School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, for the Academic Session 2026-27 for the vacant seats after completion of 3 rounds of Counselling**

Details of Vacant seats are available at JAAP PG 2026 website: https://jaappg.admissions.nic.in/

THE REGISTRATION PROCESS WILL START FROM 3rd JUNE 2026 and will close on 8th JUNE 2026. (Candidates may note that seats other than the vacant seats may also be available during seat allotment process due to upgradation/withdrawal of existing allottees.)

Candidates are advised to visit JAAP PG 2026 website and refer Business Rules for further details related to Special Round.

1. Online Registration for Special Round
a) Online Registration process will be similar to the earlier registration. Candidates who desire to participate in the Special Round should log - in to portal and complete the registration process.
b) Candidates, who have completed their registration in regular rounds, do not require to register again. However, they will be required to complete the remaining activities.

2. Special Round Participation Fee
a) Candidates who did not pay the seat acceptance fee of Rs. 15,000/- in the earlier round, must pay the same amount as participation fees before document verification and choice filling
b) Candidates who have already paid seat acceptance fee of Rs. 15,000/- in any of the regular rounds are exempted from the participation fee.
c) Candidates belonging to 2a and 2b are exempted from payment of Registration Fees of Rs 3,500/- (GEN/OBC-NCL) and Rs. 1,750/- (GEN-EWS/SC/ST/PwD/)
d) Candidates who have not registered in the previous rounds and registered as a new applicant need to pay Registration Fees of Rs 3,500/- (GEN/OBC-NCL) and Rs. 1,750/- (GEN-EWS/SC/ST/PwD/) as well as Participation Fees of Rs. 15,000/-.

Minimum qualifying marks: Candidates with at least 55% marks or 6.0 CGPA at the qualifying examination, or 50% marks or 5.5 CGPA for the reserved categories SC/ST/ PwD

Candidates without having a valid GATE/CEED/UGC-NET (JRF) Score are also eligible to apply.

Selection Criteria:
Selection of candidates shall be based on:
1)Performance in Qualifying Examination;
2)Valid GATE/CEED/UGC-NET (JRF) Score, as applicable;
3)Physical Interaction, and
4)Work Experience

General Instructions:
1. The Foreign Nationals/ NRI/ PIO/OCI seeking admission in any of the Postgraduate Courses shall apply separately through DASA 2026 portal.
2. Candidate can exercise **any number of choices based on vacancy and eligibility for the course applied for in any of the Institutions.**
3. **Reservation of seats for Kashmiri Migrants (KM) and Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwD) are as per Government of India rules.**
4. Candidates in final year/semester are also eligible to apply.
5. Only GATE and CEED qualified candidates (in appropriate branch) having valid Score Card shall be eligible for the scholarship.
6. Sponsored candidates from Government organizations, quasi-Government organizations, PSUs shall apply separately through the websites of respective Institutions.

For any clarifications, candidates may contact: jaappg2026@spa.ac.in

Registrar, SPA, Delhi
JAAP PG 2026, Host Institution

Female sterilisation stood at 36.5% whereas male at merely 0.5%: NFHS-6

▶ Continued from page 1

In the data on contraception, it is notable that while the use of family planning methods by married women (15-49 years) rose to 69.1% from 66.7% in NFHS-5, when it comes to sterilisation, there was a stark difference between the percentage of women and men taking that route.

NFHS-6 found that female sterilisation stood at 36.5% whereas male sterilisation was at merely 0.5%. In the previous survey, this percentage was higher for women (37.9%) and lower for men (0.3%).

The data is telling as it highlights challenges arising out of deep-rooted societal gender norms and indicates that many still hold on to the belief that the onus of family planning largely rests with the woman.

The survey findings on sterilisation show that female sterilisation was notably higher in rural areas (38.1%) compared to 32.6% in urban areas. In the case of men, those opting for sterilisation was equally low in both rural and urban areas at 0.5% and 0.4%, respectively.

Meanwhile, a look at urban and rural data shows that there was not much difference in the percentage of married women using any form, including traditional and modern, of family planning methods — 69.6% in urban areas and 68.9% women in rural areas.

The survey also looked at the unmet need for family planning (currently married women in age group of 15-49 years), which stood at 8.5%, and was higher at 9.1% in rural areas as against 7% in urban areas. The unmet need for family planning refers to women who do not use contraception but wish to postpone next childbirth or stop childbearing altogether.

NTA: Tech partner reported glitch that delayed commencement of CUET-UG

▶ Continued from page 1

The delay cascaded onto the afternoon shift as candidates from the morning session exited much later than planned

Around 15.7 lakh candidates were expected to appear for the test nationally. There are 306 CUET centres in India and 15 outside. While it is not clear how many were affected, reports of disruptions came in from Delhi, Jodhpur, Noida and several other places in UP.

The delay cascaded onto the afternoon shift as candidates from the morning session exited much later than planned. NTA revised the afternoon schedule, directing candidates to report from 2.30pm and announcing that examinations would begin at 4pm instead of the scheduled 3pm. Candidates are officially required to report to the CUET exam centre at least 2 hours before the commencement of their scheduled shift, after which entry is stopped.

In a statement, NTA said its technology partner, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), had reported a technical glitch that delayed commencement of CUET-UG at some centres. It said the issue had been resolved and that candidates were being given full compensatory time to ensure no student was disadvantaged.

"Morning-session candidates are being given the full duration of the paper and may exit only after completing it," NTA said, apologising for the inconvenience caused to students and parents.

TCS, which operationalises the computer-based examination for NTA, said a brief technical issue had caused a delay of around two hours in the morning shift. The company said the problem was promptly identified and resolved and maintained there was no impact on the sanctity of the examination. NTA said it has also asked TCS to conduct a root-cause analysis and submit its report immediately. "Most candidates (about 95%) were able to complete their exam once it resumed. We understand that 3,765 candidates who were present and had completed biometric registration chose to leave before the exam could restart. For these candidates, NTA will hold a rescheduled examination as a one-time measure. The new date and details will be announced separately," it said. The glitch affected centres across multiple cities. Some candidates reported examinations being cancelled, while others said students left centres amid confusion before the issue was resolved.

The disruption comes at a time when NTA faces scrutiny over the conduct of national-level entrance examinations following controversies surrounding the NEET UG 2026 paper leak, placing renewed focus on the agency's ability to smoothly conduct one of the country's largest examinations.

Woman sells her 2 kids for ₹4L, held

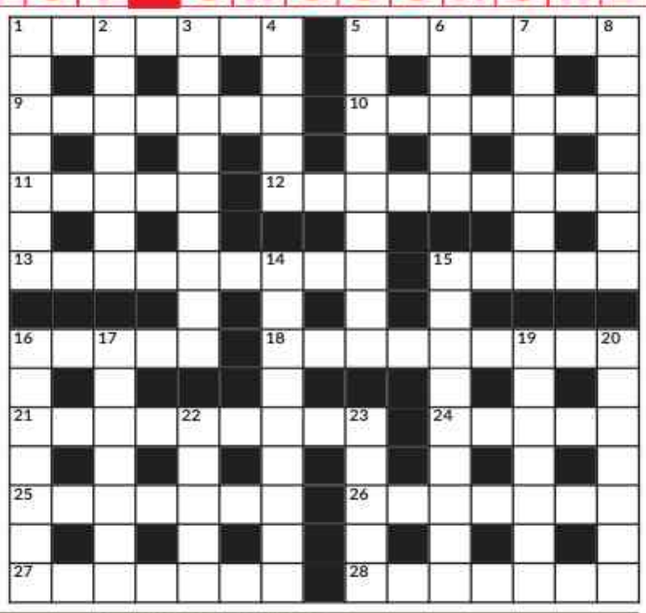
Chandrapur: A woman from Maharashtra's Chandrapur allegedly sold two of her children for Rs 4 lakh and was planning to sell her third daughter's newborn, when police stepped in. The 15-year-old girl had conceived following a sexual assault, **reports Mazhar Ali**.

Ramnagar police nabbed the two buyers along with the woman late Thursday, but her live-in partner and kingpin of the trafficking ring is on the run. The four accused were named in an FIR under Human Trafficking (Prevention and Control) Act and Pocso Act. Police intensified their probe by adding human trafficking charges and tracked down and arrested a child buyer from Telangana, and another from Chandrapur.

THE TOI CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD No. TCC#0274

The **TOI Crossword contest** is on a short break, but the crossword itself will continue to be featured in The Sunday Times of India, so that you can continue to relish the challenge every week. **Stay tuned!**



The Times of India CROSSWORD EVERY SUNDAY

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

1 A tea taster possibly hung (7)
5 Energetic fellow who hurtles around? (7)
9 A roguish manner to make an entrance (7)
10 It has no meaning (7)
11 The chaplain's walkabout (5)
12 He provides regular press handouts (9)
13 The odd messenger will try to avoid duty (3,6)
15 Thought a great many were employed (5)
16 Mature or mature to a point (5)
18 Express lacking a restaurant car? (4,5)
21 Get rid of smoother gunmetal perhaps (5,4)
24 Poet who makes a big hit in American sport (5)
25 A gumboil no one treated leads to complaint (7)
26 Musician having ear most developed (7)
27 Sending out terminations (7)
28 They are said to be just barren areas (7)

Down

1 Unruly campers are made to skedaddle (7)
2 Pitch of the road (7)
3 Do meteorologists gain little by forecasting it? (3,6)
4 Beam over such material (5)
5 Forceful argument makes crossword solving difficult (4,5)
6 Is of a capital disposition (5)
7 Attends and possibly enlists (7)
8 Told of a family connection? (7)
14 No good at all for use in a riot (9)
15 So good nobody will play you? (9)
16 Firm purpose to settle (7)
17 Way of selling established in ancient times (7)
19 It measures the strength of the current (7)
20 Contracts for Polar missiles (7)
22 Clear the area (5)
23 He has no settled occupation (5)

QUICK CLUES

Across

1 Church tower and spire (7) 5 Correctly reasoned (7)
9 Intention to act (7) 10 Warm scarf (7) 11 Detest (5)
12 Conspicuous (2,3,4) 13 At risk (2,3,4)
15 Inquisitive (5) 16 Impaired by disuse (5)
18 The breaking point (4,5) 21 Fall guy (9)
24 Wanderer (5) 25 Stamp (7) 26 Utterly perplex (7)
27 Underground prison cell (7)
28 Stockings and socks (7)

Down

1 Highest singing voice (7) 2 Hearing range (7)
3 Rightness (9) 4 Bring to bear (5) 5 Unbounded (9)
6 Indiscreet remark (5) 7 Unfeeling (7) 8 Theft of personal property (7) 14 Obtained by illegal means (3-6) 15 Without any obligations (2,7)
16 Annul (7) 17 To whet (7) 19 Rotate (7)
20 Indolent (7) 22 Banishment (5)
23 Freshwater fish of carp family (5)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC

F	O	W	L	E	R	■	A	D	V	A	N	C	E	S
O	■	E	■	M	■	■	■	O	■	B	■	L	■	I
C	A	L	L	I	N	■	C	O	N	S	T	A	N	T
U	■	L	■	G	■	D	■	R	■	I	■	N	■	U
S	U	B	O	R	N	E	D	■	E	N	I	G	M	A
E	■	E	■	E	■	L	■	C	■	T	■	■	■	T
D	R	I	P	■	L	I	G	H	T	H	O	U	S	E
■	■	N	■	S	■	G	■	E	■	E	■	N	■	■
R	I	G	H	T	A	H	E	A	D	■	S	T	U	D
E	■	■	■	A	■	T	■	T	■	C	■	A	■	O
D	E	F	I	N	E	■	F	E	R	R	Y	M	A	N
P	■	A	■	D	■	L	■	R	■	E	■	A	■	K
O	N	C	E	O	V	E	R	■	G	A	M	B	L	E
L	■	E	■	U	■	A	■	■	■	S	■	L	■	Y
L	A	T	I	T	U	D	E	■	R	E	C	E	S	S

QUICK

S	A	F	A	R	I	■	F	L	E	E	T	I	N	G
A	■	A	■	A	■	■	■	O	■	C	■	D	■	E
T	Y	R	A	N	T	■	Q	U	E	S	T	I	O	N
C	■	F	■	K	■	I	■	D	■	T	■	O	■	E
H	A	R	D	L	I	N	E	■	H	A	M	M	E	R
E	■	O	■	E	■	D	■	M	■	T	■	■	■	A
L	I	M	E	■	T	O	C	A	P	I	T	A	L	L
■	■	I	■	C	■	U	■	S	■	C	■	T	■	■
G	E	T	T	H	E	B	O	O	T	■	P	O	M	P
A	■	■	■	A	■	T	■	N	■	T	■	N	■	O
R	E	P	O	R	T	■	B	R	O	W	B	E	A	T
L	■	R	■	I	■	F	■	Y	■	I	■	T	■	T
A	V	E	R	S	I	O	N	■	O	N	F	I	R	E
N	■	S	■	M	■	I	■	■	■	G	■	M	■	R
D	I	S	R	A	E	L	I	■	M	E	R	E	L	Y

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/PR/381/2026-27 Date: 30.05.2026

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

This is to inform the general public and all concerned that below mentioned tender notification No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/08/2026-27 issued by Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML on 27.05.2026 has been cancelled due to technical reasons.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1
BSWML

DIPR/CP/912/AKAR/2026-27

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No. ELG-02-M05-2026-27 Date : 26.05.2026

E-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N. C. Railway, Agra on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (E-Tendering) for the following works.

Tender No. : ELG-02-M05-2026-27 | Approx. Cost of the work : Rs.12407540.65

Name of work with its location & Completion Period : Agra cantt-Provision of Packaged type Substation and Strengthening work of various sub-station under SSE/P/AGC jurisdiction.
Completion period : 08 months

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in**. Tenders can only be submitted through web portal **www.ireps.gov.in** up to 15:00 hrs on 24-06-2026. 1211/26 (C)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆಯುಕ್ತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ,
ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಗಡಿಗಿ ಚೆನ್ನಪ್ಪ ವೃತ್ತ (ರಾಯಲ್ ಸರ್ಕಲ್) ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ-583101.
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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮನಪಾಬ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಅಮೃತ್-2.0/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:25.05.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಕಾಲ್-4 (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮೂಲಕ)

ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆವತಿಯಿಂದ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಪುರಸ್ಕೃತ ಅನುದಾನದ ಅಮೃತ್ 2.0 ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮೂಲಕ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:1) DMA/2025-26 /OW/ Work_Indent 49795/Call-4-Rs.167.95 Lakhs, 2) DMA/2025-26 /OW/ Work_Indent 49792/Call-4-Rs.62.81 Lakhs, 3) DMA/2025-26/OW/Work_Indent 49788/Call-4-Rs.94.37 Lakhs & 4) DMA/2025-26/OW/ Work_Indent 49790/call-4-Rs.52.36 Lakhs ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:08.06.2026** ರ ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ **5.30** ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:10.06.2026** ರ **ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:12.06.2026** ರ **ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್:**http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಅನ್ನು ಅನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ/2026-27/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/189

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GUPTA Boy 29/5'9" IITB BTech Germany masters wkg in Delhi, parents govt doctors Indore, seeks working veg girl below 28 year. 9425087718

BANGALORE settled hindu kerala pillai boy 48/5.6", legally divorced, self employed caste no bar. 9900595898, 8073594062.

29/5'10 B.Tech-IIT MS wkg with google 1Cr +well establd B'ness Fmly. Caste No Bar .No dowry Rich Fmly #9826502693 Email: bdmatj@gmail.com

A SENIOR CITIZEN NEEDS a life partner and companion, Age: 75 years, Cast: Brahmin Iyer, Place: BANGALORE, Widows spinsters divorcees acceptable. For more details Contact: 7022307718, OR Email to: kchandra03@gmail.com

SM 30/6'3" Law graduate, Jabalpur M.P, High Profile , Hoteller, Real Estate Business, Contact only vegetarian Hindi Speaking family. # 7999907232.

FAIR H'some B.Tech MBA Own Business Dubai/Jpr based 87,5'7". Income 1 Cr. Elite Jaipur Jain Family. 9784696962

H'SOME Dubai-based MS USA Jatav boy 1991/5'7"/$150K Delhi NCR family seeks beautiful well-educated girl. Cast no bar#9650408495

37YRS Bhatnagar Manglik MBA boy 5'11" noida based 15 LPA. Consultant in MNC. 9412084272 , mrraj4@gmail.com

SOLANKI Rajput H'sm NM. boy 97/183cm BLR MNC 36LPA G.noida Seeks b'ful cultured &virtuous equivalent Wkg girl 9873250498(F)

AGARWAL

37/ 5'10" Slim, Simple Boy, Inter, Hyderabad Established Marwari Family. Seeks Simple Hindu Family Oriented Girl (Divorcee / Minor Handicap OK) BHP Mob.: 9849015330

PQM for Tall, H'some Non-Mnglk Rajput boy 30/6 ft/ B.Tech MBA frm IIPT (Delhi), Wrkg MNC(B'lore). Fthr Retd. Civil srvnt. W/A 9355475996

HINDU Besta, Kannada, June'84/Pune Born/5'8",Graduate, Never Married, good-looking, Job in RBI Press, Mysore, 20LPA seeks Hindu, Never Married, good-looking bride(34-41), 5'-5'8", Educated, Working, mother tongue Kannada/ Marathi/ Tulu/ Konkani/ others preferred. Caste no bar. Call/WA 7899402978

WANTED Beautiful fair colour Bride, general caste, Graduate Age about 30+ Ready to fly UK/India for handsome 46/5'8" Vaishya Gupta Super Surgeon works UK & Planning Clinic at Pune 7974602176

MUSLIM

H'SOME boy 32/5'11' PG from UK, of elite Hyd family - seeks prof qual Sunni muslim girl. Call or W/A 9679999635

GENERAL

CASTE NO BAR

HINDU Graduate, 1975, 5'1" Never Married. NGO Professional. Specially-abled, self-reliant. Seeks suitable bride, English & Hindi. Open to Ghar Jamai. Call: 9910482304 / atalrohit12345@gmail.com

HINDU, never married. Age 45, 5'7". IIT, Ph.D. Professor in US, Green Card. Non-smoker, Non-drinker, vegetarian. Seeking Never Married, Veg bride below 37 yrs. No caste bar. Contact: 8600315420

1976 Handsome Telugu AUSTRALIAN Citizen M.TECH (RMIT MELBOURNE) Divorcee with no issues, seeks a Smart, Slim, well-educated girl from a cultured family. Send BPH to WA No. 9900194241.

BENGALI MBA 41, 5'9" Caring, Honest, Fair, Handsome, No demand, Canadian Citizen, Owned properties in India seeks Hindu bride below 31, willing to work in Canada. Call: 8697745543 / 9823173193

KAYASTHA, Engineer, V. Handsom,48/167/75 LPA,(luks youngr),never marid,Status Fmly,NOBARS,NODOWRY.Ad 4widerchoice.E:talash246@gmail.com ,whAp 9425092608

QUALIFIED no dowry match for 5-8 slim punjabi hindu khatri 1988 nonsmoker boy of status family in permanent central government Group B service at Delhi 9417131101

EQM4 Punjabi khatri,manglik H'some,boy,5'11"/20.04.91/11:18 am/delhi,B.Tech.,MBA-IIM Rohtak,wkng MNC@50Lpa, JS ID-XZTZ3655, call 9818669189

B.TECH IIT + ISB (MBA) '84|171 cm Tech Founder/CEO Dubai. Income 10 Crore. Elite Jaipur Jain Family 9829294900

Seeking professionally qualified tall girl from cultured family for 36/6'3", Baniya boy, M.Tech (USA), working in Top MNC in Bangalore. Both Parents doctors in Lucknow.
Please call/whatsapp 9415026358 9415518399

COSMOPOLITAN

AFFLUENT AND REPUTED SOUTH DELHI PUNJABI FAMILY INVITES ALLIANCE FOR THEIR ONLY SON, 27 / 6 ft, B.Tech & MBA, Entrepreneur with his own startup and also associated with a reputed MNC. Holder of UAE Golden Visa. Parents in senior CXO positions. *Seeking a compatible, well-educated partner with strong family values.* Contact : 9711180916 (no marriage bureaus)

SECOND MARRIAGE

SUCCESSFUL 43, humble, open-minded, intelligent (PhD), responsible AI scientist. Seeks progressive, compatible, well-read bride. Call/WA 93456 34365

RELIGION NO BAR

38/5'10" Unmarried Boy Cast No Bar Btech-MBA IIM, Working MNC 60 LPA Bn'ess Family Accpt Div & Widow Cont: 9009486689, 7587736854

BY LANGUAGE

BENGALI

QM4I Brhmn, 29+/5'11", B.Tech, Mgr Intl MNC. Fair, handsome, affluent family. Parents: Engr & Cent.Govt Mgr. Seek highly-edu, wrkg bride from family outside WB #8826680512

PUNJABI

DELHI Based H'some, Fair PB boy, 1995/5'10", MBA, divorced short 2 months marriage. Educationist running reptd Sr. Sec. Schools. Seeks B'ful, Edu. girl from resp. fmly. 9999185900

SM4 MBA, 46/6" US Ctzn, wrkg in USA MNC Hdu Pnjbi H'some, phyly fit D'vce, 1 daughter w/ex wife. Seeks Girl below 37 yrs. Simple Marriage. E: lotuslily45@gmail.com

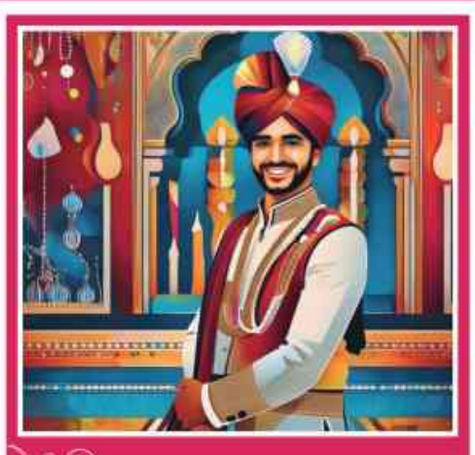
GURSIKH Arora h'some boy Feb '95/5'11" veg teeto,Advocate at Delhi.Comfortable life.Joint family concept.Befitting match may contact/whap : 9837200022

BY NATIONALITY

NRI/ GREEN CARD

BALIJA Naidu 32, 6'1" MS, MBA on H1B in US seeks alliances from tall, fair, beautiful well educated girls in US from respectable south indian families. WA 9309744976 / email vwnaidu@gmail.com

MAY'94/5'11" Saryuparin Brahmin , Non-vegetarian, H'some Boy ,B.Tech IIT KNP , MS NYU ,PHD AI (UCF) seeking U.S. based Slim ,B'ful Tall Girl. WhatsApp- 9415217547



WANTED GROOMS

WANTED GROOMS
BY CASTE
BRAHMIN

SM4 Gaur Brhmn girl, B.Des., 29Yr/5'5',Wrkg in BLR,earning H'some sal.pkg. Seeks PQ Veg North Indian Brhmn T'totaler Boy wrkg in Metro City (pref. BLR). Whtsp: 9719577768, 9703830947,9886607922 email: aksharmagzh2022@gmail.com

PQM4 B'ful 5'3 37 SPB girl. BE, Wkng in S'pore. Lkng 4 all brahmin BE/MBA/MS wkg in India/abroad. 9724302920.8758304773

BANGLR bsd Vg 46+ TamBram Iyer Pretty USC Seeks an edud VegIndMan upto 52yrs Div2018 Nt wrkg usewlkr NoChld Get US pensn C:9945505879/7349264137

SPB Bhrdj gtr 29/5'4" wheatish Hmly B'ful grl Mtech Wkg MNC 20 LPA Frm Lko prnts Govt Drs seek 5'8"+ PQM MNC/Govt Ofc All Brh acptd BP: 9415250223

KAYASTHA

ARCHITECT Mathur girl, Jan'95/5'6, wkg Gurgaon, Delhi family sttld GGN, seeks smart prof qlfd match preferably from GGN/ Delhi. Call 8178979923.

KHATRI

H/STATUS Sikh buss. fmly seeks PQM for convent edu b'ful girl nov 93/5'5¼"MBA/ s-emplyd/high income / Canadian PR. 9876001157

BY COMMUNITY
AGARWAL

PQM for Goyal girl 5 ft / born April 1987/51 kgs MBA, MS working in USA. I-140 approved. Open to relocation in USA /India. Mobile 9823345267

ALLIANCE invited for fair, beautiful Aggarwal Manglik girl, M.Tech, 5'4", DOB 02-02-1996, 6.30 am Khanna (Punjab) employed in reputed company at Bangalore. Father well-settled businessman based in Punjab. Looking for handsome, professionally qualified Manglik boy with attractive package in Bangalore or established businessman settled in Bangalore. email: dharampaulgupta46@gmail.com mobile:9815027742

ARORA

DIVORCED - Dental surgeon, Punjabi,MDS girl 39, height 5'2",fair. Job in Gurugram. (legal custody of child with father). Doctor family. Requires same status boy preferably in Gurugram. ph: 9896028334

BHUMIHAR

BHUMIHAR MBA (Wkg) 26/5'4" Delhi bsd family (BH roots) seek well settled boy pref. in Delhi # 8826888330/9625557974

RAJPUT

WELL settled groom from elite business/affluent family from Rajput/ upper-caste for 31/5'8", good looking, corporate professional belongs to reputed business family. Cont : 6268474143, 8770148091

Medico Alliance invited for smart good looking Rajput Girl 31/ 5'02" MS ophthalmology, working for a leading Hospital in Delhi belongs to a reputed status family. We are looking for Post graduate medico Rajput boy only. 7838387034 or whatsapp latest bio data with pictures.

BY PROFESSION

BUSINESS

A prominent and respected Punjabi family of high repute into multifaceted business, seeking alliance for their very smart and beautiful Daughter, 28 year 5',5" height. She is educated in the US and runs her own successful venture . We are looking for an educated , intelligent boy with a pleasing personality from an industrial house or business. Family has to be cultured and affulent. Metro cities preferred. 8879773272 Or Mail Us At inpurplebasket@gmail.com

DOCTORS

MATCH for Garhwali Rajput Doctor pursuing MD (Derma), 27 years, height 5'2" from educated, cultured family. Seeking doctor (MD/MS/DNB) from well-educated family. WhatsApp: 9820749630

LOOKING for groom MEDICO Bangalore based Agarwal girl,Jan'97,5'4", Fair, MBBS, MS General Surgery, working in private sector. WA: 9927392058, 9036034670

BY RELIGION

HINDU

MENON Girl, 34, Fair, Beautiful, 153 cm, LLM Stanford, well placed in London. Looking for a well-settled groom in the UK or US. Contact: 9447284008, 9745005767

BEAUTIFUL, 26 yrs, 5'8" Engg, MBA(IIM). Req Tall, Handsome, professional, Affluent fly, settled in Hyd / Blr. / Mumbai. Ph: 9880754481

SM4 Brahmin Girl b'ful 32/5'4, Gazetted Officer Vadodara, Managing mild Parkinsons, leads an active life, Upper Caste no bar, send BHP on Whatsapp 9314014461.

SM4 28Y 5'4" Fair Punjabi Girl MBA MNC Gurgaon Seek PQ boy 29 to 31Y in Corporate or Com. Pilot from Defence Offrs Family WA 7838706856

MUSLIM

SUNNI Muslim Reputed fmly of Patna seeks edu, family oriented groom (Syed, sheikh, Pathan)for good looking , tall girl 25, MBA (United Kingdom) M- 8294358123

SIKH

South Delhi based reputed Gursikh business family seeks alliance for their daughter, 27/5'2", US Graduate and MBA from a premier Indian institute. Looking for a Gursikh (Non-Trimmer), well educated professional/ businessman from a cultured family in India or abroad. Contact 9953659473 Vakr3422@gmail.com

GENERAL

CASTE NO BAR

QUALIFIED abroad B'ful girl (Hindu), father cardiologist, 1990/5'5", seeks qualified groom, caste no bar, open to all regional backgrounds. Preferred NRIs: US/Can/Eur.Contact 9266863038

AFFLUENT : Family looking for Hindu well settled professional qualified india or abroad match for their 27 year 5'4" pretty Gowda daughter MS in UK educated, well settled in Bangalore. Cast no bar. Only WhatsApp - 93425 42845

BEAUTIFUL doctor girl 96/5'2 final yr Pediatrics. Father Retd defence officer seeks suitable Medico/Defence/Services/Professional. WhatsApp 8275224791, e mail 101996pp@gmail.com

KAYSTHA June 95 born 5'4" MBA work in MNC Bengaluru Parents Retd. officers LKO Seek Qualified upper-caste boy based in BLR/ HYD/PNQ/BOM WhatsApp: 9369499615 / 9415070723

AFFLUENT family looking for well settled, professionally qualified match for their 38 year 5 feet 3" pretty Punjabi Khatri daughter foreign educated and well employed with MNC in Delhi. Non manglik. Caste no bar. W'app/Call 99990-10178, 2a|grover@gmail.com

REPUTED Punjabi family, Patna, seeks upper-caste (Hindu) match for daughter, 39, 5'4", LLM (top institute), lawyer, graceful & accomplished. Educated, progressive, well-settled, financially stable groom preferred. No dowry. Contact: 9934423838.

LUCKNOW based Girl 5.2"/1996 working as a Research Scientist U.C.L.A (USA). Call : 9319500861, 9650312918

MS in Elec Engr from Houston Univ USA, Jatav B'ful 29/5' wkg girl in Pennsylvania USA, Seeks well stid prof qlfd match, prefd from USA # 9958993849

WIDOW with one daughter13 year's, Age - 43, H-5.5, Education-MA,BEd working in MNC IT Company.9671668873, 8950602460 caste Mishra.

AUSTRALIAN Citizen, 50 years, Hindu Lady looking for Suitable match. May relocate to India. Whatsapp: +61 422794566 / +91 9963408731

MA (UK)32yrs,5'4",b'full fair, girl Psychologist, S. Delhi Bsd. educ. & affluent fmly. seeks well stid. educ. hindu/ liberal sikh Boy # 9220447971

COSMOPOLITAN

LONDON based Fair Smart Conv Edu girl 39/5'3" BE,MBA. Sr.Consultant Top MNC. Highly edu fmly Bihar/UP. Email: spriyadarshee@gmail.com WApp/Call:+91 9445021180.

FIN Well Stld PQM for Slim B'ful 1984/5'6" Phi girl BTech & PG Wkg as Mgr MNC Dubai Shrt Mrg Dvrc I'Less Pune: 7717639665

RELIGION NO BAR

MBA 35/5'3" Divorce Bride Jaiswal issueless. father high Business Family. Accept Div & Widower Contact: Whats-App: 9009486689, 9179877768.

SC/ST

SUITABLE Match for JAISWAR (SC) Beautiful Smart Girl 30/5'9" BBA LLB, Wkg MNC Hyderabad. 35 LPA caste no bar. Mb- 9936899315

SECOND MARRIAGE

MATCH for Brahmin, March 86/5'1", BE, Divorced, Beautiful, 70 LPA Bangalore (Jaipur Family). Upper Caste No Bar Send BHP 8949222130

ATTRACTIVE architect 39, 164cm, loyal, well-spoken, open-minded. Cultured family. Seeks smart, compatible groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365.

BY LANGUAGE

BENGALI

MBBS, MD Ansth Tata Kay. Bride 22.7.87/ 5'2" Mum, D. dib fel' Cardio & C care MRCP P-1 & II prf MD Dr, IT 9821212409, sinhaassociates27@gmail.com

BENGALI b'ful girl 94 born/5'-4", Chandigarh based Pastry Chef Bengali/Non-Bengali upper caste families only. Contact : 8284854506.

PUNJABI

PUNJABI Khatri girl 34/5'3" MBA fair, wrkg MNC Banglore seeks Veg teetotaler prefd B'glore setteled groom M: 9451948490, 8299195574

* Seeking a suitable match for a C.A., cultured and family oriented girl"
36yrs, 155cm, Punjabi Arora/ Khatri, C.A, currently working at senior position in a leading bank in Chandigarh. She is smart, caring, and values both modern outlook and traditional family values.
We are a respectable and well-settled family based in Ludhiana.
"Looking for professionally qualified, well settled, non-divorcee, born after 1985 and caring groom from a reputed family
Caste no bar. Horoscope matching can be considered. Please respond with full details at: **Email : skg.businessmail@gmail.com WA Profile +91 9814138500**

TELUGU

TELUGU, YADAV Bride, 28 Y, 5.4 ft, B.Tech. Seeking Well educated Suitable Groom. Contact:8919377540

BY NATIONALITY

NRI/ GREEN CARD

B.TECH Tamil Mudaliar Girl DOB Dec 94 NRI Wkg MNC UAE, 42LPA,Seeks boy Wkg Abroad, CasteNoBar CT8667248379,

BFUL MBA Uni. Prof. 5'6"/59 in Aust. Seeks unmarried wealthy, tall, H'some, Profnl, Medico. Gen. call 61435747736. lataprem900@yahoo.com

SEATTLE /metro area based boy for Microsoft s/w Engr girl Dec91 / 5'5" nonveg. Caste/lower age no bar WA 9845624616

CBSE's new digital marking system is failing the test

BY INVITATION

ANITA RAMPAL

We are witnessing a summer of soaring distrust, despair and discontent. Yet through this dark cloud, we see hope in how some students have held an ethical mirror to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Earlier this month, 23 lakh students who had appeared for the medical entrance test (NEET) were devastated to learn that it was compromised and cancelled. While investigations were still underway to unearth the organised network for the paper 'loot', another trauma lay in store for those who took the class 12 CBSE exam. Students who managed to overcome the malfunctioning portal saw staggering discrepancies in their marks and answer sheets. With no official help forthcoming, they posted on social media to warn others about the wrongly evaluated, badly scanned or mismatched sheets not even belonging to them. For this, some were trolled with perverse, abusive comments.

This year, CBSE introduced an on-screen marking (OSM) system for the class 12 exam. Answer sheets of 18 lakh students (amounting to over 90 lakh for all subjects) were scanned, and the digitised copies sent for evaluation by teachers. Students have demanded re-evaluation of more than 11 lakh answer sheets. But the portal is now closed, and there could be many more who have been wronged. Their anguished voices have mobilised the media towards sustained attention and sound investigative reports. Serious questions are being raised about a shoddy exercise hurriedly implemented through a bidding process that relaxed key requirements and chose a company with a tainted record. This caused incalculable loss to students in terms of their results, mental trauma, and disruption of their plans for college. With only 30,000 schools, CBSE is much smaller than some state boards, such as Maharashtra, MP or Odisha, making the lapses all the more difficult to understand.

Young class 12 students such as Nisarga Adhikary and Sarthak Sidhant appear to have ethically decoded some of these lapses. Significantly, Nisarga, who trained as an ethical hacker, had reportedly warned the company Coempt Edu Teck, the vendor responsible for the OSM system, and CBSE about major vulnerabilities in the portal. His technical reports were ignored then, and now he's been facing staunch denials. It does not bode well when an academic authority like CBSE completely loses the trust of young students, who ethically use their knowledge and agency not for themselves but for the public good.

What is even more shocking is the campaign where videos have been made by school principals and children, giving false statements about the OSM checking process being more efficient and less biased because marks are strictly on the basis of what is written in the answer sheet. A social media post by a student exclaims, "My school has gone MADDD", lamenting that teachers were traumatising them to tell lies even though they had passed out of school last year, before the OSM.

OFF THE MARK: A computer can't assess a student's critical thinking or ability to express ideas

Indeed, such false propaganda to push for digital evaluation is deeply worrying. Digital marking is not the panacea that CBSE and the technology industry claim it to be. Teachers who assessed the answer sheets this year have experienced an unsettling environment where they were regimented to work on screens, through often blurry scans, as they tried to decipher different handwriting, discern what students had written and make judgments about their answers. They were also being 'watched', as one teacher said, and the centre got a call if someone seemed to take longer. Their voices are being heard, albeit anonymously.

Assessment is not a mechanical scrolling of our eyes on a page; it involves human cognitive processing with professional understanding. As teachers, we evaluate a student's work with moral responsibility, we flip back and forth to decide what they understand and how to mark that fairly. Already, the multiple-choice question (MCQ) format of most of our entrance tests, chosen for being machine-scorable, is acutely limiting the value of what we assess. Tick marks on a page do not assess a student's analytical understanding and ability to express ideas. More competitive examinations based on superficial MCQ or short-answer formats need speed and memory recall, pushing them into the commercial arms of the coaching industry.

If we constrain teachers' human acumen to assess by resorting to digital convenience, we will not be doing justice to our students. We risk cursorily eliminating them from the educational opportunities they deserve. We need to reframe school-leaving board examinations with assessment items and tasks that demand critical thinking, honed through better schooling. Technologies require responsible, knowledgeable and trustworthy decisions to nurture ingenuity with equity. Let our academic bodies win their trust and seriously reckon with those digital allurements that do not bode well for the future of our children. The students have admirably shown they are ready to work with us in this direction. ■

Rampal is professor and former dean, Faculty of Education, Delhi University

Even with luxury base camp, bottled oxygen, climbing Everest remains hard

Another crowded Everest season has renewed debate over commercialisation on the world's highest peak. The award-winning American writer ***Will Cockrell's*** *2024 book, 'Everest, Inc,' was the first full account of how the mountain transformed from an elite expedition into a billion-dollar industry. In an interview with* ***Sharmila Ganesan Ram****, he discusses why the summit still exerts an almost spiritual pull*

FOR THE RECORD

■ This season, Nepal issued nearly 500 Everest permits, China closed the Tibet route, concentrating traffic on a single face, and the mountain saw multiple deaths. Having closely studied the business of Everest, do you think the world's highest peak has reached a dangerous tipping point commercially?

Everest has not reached a dangerous tipping point in terms of physical danger. Deaths and injuries remain at an extraordinarily low rate relative to the number of climbers, and those numbers are either static or improving. With crowding, the primary issue is really one of aesthetics, and each climber has to decide whether that ruins the experience for them. There are still more challenging routes on the mountain that remain virtually empty.

■ Two Indian climbers died during descent, reportedly due to altitude-related illness. Is there something specific about how India's climbing aspirants are being prepared or not prepared?

I do not want to comment specifically on the two Indian climbers because I know too little about the circumstances surrounding their deaths and their prior high-altitude experience. One troubling scenario these days is climbers choosing to hire less support than they actually need at higher elevations, combined with a lack of understanding about what it takes to descend safely after summiting. The better guiding companies maintain a higher guide-to-client ratio for less-experienced climbers, but not all operators require this. That ultimately leaves the decision to the climber.

■ Jon Krakauer's famous book 'Into Thin Air' was written three decades ago, partly as a cautionary tale. Yet you've argued that it actually accelerated Everest's popularity. What does that say about human psychology?

It tells us humans are constantly searching for challenging and transformative experiences, and what qualifies as 'challenging' differs for each person. One person might find a Buddhist silent retreat harder than Everest. Another might find running a 5K the hardest thing they ever do. Many people came away from Krakauer's book believing that Everest was incredibly difficult and dangerous but still possible. That was a revelation for a number of people who dreamt of that kind of transformative challenge.

■ This year, powerful jet stream winds narrowed the summit window to just a few days, sending hundreds of climbers onto the route almost simultaneously. Is overcrowding today a logistics or regulation issue, or something deeper about modern ambition culture?

None of the above. The decision about which summit window to use is ultimately made by guides. There is very rarely only one weather window, but clients are understandably eager for the first window after spending so much time and money preparing for Everest. They fear it may be their only opportunity. Some inexperienced guides feel the same pressure. But climbing during crowded summit pushes is not necessarily dangerous per se. The safety systems on Everest are now far more sophisticated, and good guides only take clients who can tolerate extra time at altitude. Also, weather forecasting has become remarkably accurate. And many climbers are perfectly willing to tolerate queues if it improves their chances of reaching the summit. Realistically, nobody comes to Everest seeking solitude.

■ There's a striking idea in your book that Everest offers not just danger but reinvention. Why does it still exert such an extraordinary pull?

So many people are searching for reinvention, perspective, or some kind of awakening. Everest became that for many once guides started making the summit accessible to less experienced climbers. That was disappointing for climbers who had dreamt of an empty Everest, but it became an extraordinary gift for many people. In America, we sometimes jokingly describe extreme endurance challenges as 'suffer-fests'. There is something deeply human about feeling invigorated after prolonged physical hardship.

■ Some argue that Everest has become "too accessible" because of bottled oxygen, fixed ropes, luxury base camps and premium guiding services...

Accessibility is not the problem. In many ways, it is the solution. Accessibility means more safety systems and more safeguards.

■ May 29 is celebrated as Everest Day, commemorating the historic 1953 ascent of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. If they witnessed today's Everest, what would disturb them most?

We know that Hillary strongly disliked the commercial guiding industry even in its early stages. Many elite climbers feel resentment when something once considered extraordinarily difficult becomes achievable for ordinary people. I think Norgay would also be shocked. But I suspect that shock would be overshadowed by pride in what Sherpas have accomplished since his climb. It was inevitable that climbers would eventually figure out how to summit Everest. But the transformation of the Sherpa society — from expedition support workers to owners and leaders of the entire Everest economy — was never inevitable. What Sherpas have built in the Khumbu region and within the global guiding industry required extraordinary patience, intelligence, resilience, and vision. It is remarkable and represents the recognition and respect that Tenzing always deserved.

■ Do you believe Everest still changes people?

No matter how predictable the climb becomes, how luxurious base camp gets, how much oxygen you use, or how many guides support you, climbing Everest remains extremely hard for even the fittest people. The reality is that many of us — myself included — might still never make it to the summit regardless of the support available. So yes, I absolutely think reaching the top changes people.

As grey wave rises, Bihar could be unlikely answer to India's ageing problem

SWAMINOMICS

SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

The Sample Registration System 2024 shows Bihar with the highest total fertility rate of 2.9 among Indian states, followed by Uttar Pradesh (2.6) and Madhya Pradesh (2.4). These are well above the 2.1 replacement level and India's 1.9 average. As usual, Bihar is being castigated for backwardness, insensitivity to the burden on women, and unwillingness to embrace family planning. All true. Yet, the state is unwittingly becoming India's greatest defence to a new problem stalking the world — population collapse.

The greatest demographic fear today is no longer population explosion but population collapse. This threatens an ageing crisis with too few babies, a shrinking workforce, and economic stagnation.

China's fertility rate has plunged from 2.5 children per woman in 1990 to 0.93 in 2025. The RAND Corporation estimates that China's workforce peaked in 2015 and could shrink by a quarter by 2050. Its total dependency ratio—the number of children and elderly supported by working-age adults—will rise from 54% in 2010 to over 72% by 2050. In effect, every four adults will be supporting three dependents. A shrinking workforce produces and innovates less. Tax revenues weaken while pension and healthcare costs soar. Rural regions empty first, followed by smaller cities. Japan and South Korea are already experiencing this trajectory. China faces the same challenge at a much lower level of prosperity. It is becoming old before becoming rich. India faces a similar threat.

A McKinsey study projects that if current fertility trends continue, China's population could crash from 1.4 billion today to just 406 million by 2100. South Korea could shrink from 52 million to only 14 million. But thanks principally to Bihar, India's population will decline more gradually to 991 million by 2100, more than double the population of China.

Even after fertility falls below replacement level, populations with young age profiles expand for around two decades because future mothers have already been born. Bihar has just such a profile. The SRS report says 31.5% of its population is below the age of 15, the highest in India. MP follows at 27.4% and Rajasthan at 27.3%. By contrast, Tamil Nadu's figure is only 18%, and Kerala's 19%.

At the other end of the spectrum, only 7.8% of Bihar's population is above 60 years of age. Kerala, the most aged state, has 15.1%. Bihar, therefore, combines the highest fertility with one of the youngest populations in the country. This guarantees population expansion till maybe the end of the century. The state will continue generating new workers long after others age and shrink. Population collapse also means collapse of the worker-to-retiree ratio. Globally, the ratio of workers aged 15-64 to citizens above 65 is falling dramatically. China had 16 workers per senior citizen in 1950; by 2100, it may have only two. Japan and South Korea are projected to fall from about 11 workers per senior to just one. India, like China, will decline to a ratio of two, but much more gradually. The ability of workers to support a much higher proportion of the aged is straining even rich societies. Indian states, long obsessed with a population explosion, are now worrying about low fertility. Andhra Pradesh has proposed incentives for larger families. But similar incentives have failed across the world. Once societies become prosperous, urbanised, and educated, fertility remains low despite generous incentives. They need immigrants to boost their workforce and economy. India will not need foreign immigrants because Bihar, followed by UP and MP, will supply internal migrants to other states with low fertility. Millions of Biharis have long travelled to richer states seeking opportunities. They have been mocked for this in the past, but will become indispensable in coming decades. What used to be derided as the BIMARU states (Bihar, MP, Rajasthan and UP) will provide the future Indian manpower to sustain economic growth, staff factories, provide services, care for the elderly, and contribute taxes. Nobody wants Bihar to remain poor or maintain high fertility forever. Economic development, education, and women's empowerment should continue to reduce fertility over time. But Bihar's per capita income is just Rs 66,828, almost half that of the second poorest state, UP (Rs 107,468), and far below India's average of Rs 215,936 in 2023-24. Bihar will remain the poorest state even if it grows fast. Fertility is highly correlated with poverty, so it will experience population growth long after that ceases in other states.

Bihar under the Mauryas was the epicentre of Indian wealth, culture, and innovation. Alas, no more. But, for the first time in history, its greatest contribution may be demographic. As other countries confront population collapse, Bihar could be India's unlikely saviour. ■

TN is cracking down on liquor vends. But don't raise a toast yet

BY INVITATION

ARUNA BHATTACHARYA

The recent decision of the Vijay-led Tamil Nadu govt to cancel licences of liquor shops located near temples and schools has generated considerable public support. For many communities, these outlets symbolised not merely the sale of alcohol but the everyday visibility of addiction, harassment, indebtedness, and domestic distress. The move signals responsiveness to long-standing demands from women who have often borne the socio-economic consequences of alcohol dependence. Yet the larger question remains: can addiction be meaningfully addressed through closure of shops alone?

India's alcohol policy has long oscillated between two extremes — state dependence on liquor revenue and periodic prohibition or restriction. Neither approach has adequately confronted alcoholism as a complex public health and social issue. Per capita alcohol consumption remains high in several states despite repeated attempts at regulation or moral campaigns against drinking. The persistence of harmful alcohol use suggests that addiction cannot simply be legislated away. The experiences of states like Gujarat and Bihar illustrate this contradiction. Gujarat has long maintained prohibition, yet reports of bootlegging, illicit alcohol networks, and alcohol-related diseases continue to emerge periodically. Bihar's prohibition policy similarly produced mixed outcomes, including the disproportionate impact of enforcement on the poor. Restricting supply without addressing demand often pushes alcohol consumption into potentially more dangerous channels.

The public conversation on alcohol in India also tends to remain narrowly moralistic. Drinking is often framed either as individual weakness or a law-and-order problem. Far less attention is paid to the social and psychological conditions that shape addiction. Alcohol dependence frequently intersects with unemployment, precarious labour conditions, migration, social isolation, and mental distress. In many urban and peri-urban settings, liquor shops are social spaces tied to labour networks and masculine sociality. Simply shutting shops without preparing communities for behavioural transition may produce unintended consequences. Public health evidence globally has shown that abrupt cessation without adequate medical or psychosocial support can lead to severe health complications and medical emergencies among those with chronic alcohol dependence.

Women's demands for regulating alcohol must nevertheless be taken seriously. Women's groups have historically led anti-liquor movements because they directly experience the consequences of harmful alcohol use — domestic violence, depletion of household income, neglect of children, unsafe neighbourhoods, and social insecurity. However, responding to these demands only through symbolic closures risks simplifying a much deeper crisis.

DRY RUN: Govts rely heavily on liquor revenue to finance welfare and development programmes even while acknowledging the social harms of consumption

What remains largely absent in our policy is a comprehensive public health framework. States continue to focus disproportionately on licensing, policing, and revenue generation while neglecting de-addiction infrastructure. Public hospitals often lack accessible addiction treatment services. Families coping with addiction often navigate the crisis alone. A serious policy response would require moving beyond the binary of unrestricted sale vs prohibition. It would involve sustained behavioural-change campaigns, expansion of mental health and addiction services, and investment in affordable rehabilitation systems.

There is also a deeper contradiction in how Indian states approach alcohol. Govts often rely heavily on liquor revenues to finance welfare and development programmes, even while publicly acknowledging the social harms associated with alcohol consumption. TN's own history with TASMAC reflects this tension between welfare politics and revenue dependence. As long as states remain financially dependent on alcohol sales, policy responses are likely to remain fragmented and politically inconsistent. TN's decision may therefore be understood as an important symbolic beginning rather than a complete solution. Restricting liquor outlets may respond to public safety concerns. But addiction itself requires a much wider social response. Without addressing the structural conditions that sustain harmful alcohol use — unemployment, distress, mental health burdens, and weak public health systems — closure of shops alone is unlikely to produce long-term transformation. If India is serious about reducing alcohol-related harm, it must move beyond episodic prohibition politics and towards a coherent public health approach. Otherwise, alcohol policy risks becoming an exercise in symbolic governance while the deeper crisis of addiction continues unresolved beneath the surface. ■

Bhattacharya is a medical anthropologist and public health expert specialising in urban health systems

WORD DROP

WOKEFISHING

In the world of dating, catfishing has been around for a while. But looks aren't the only thing people are deceiving others about. Enter wokefishing, a term used to describe people who perform progressive politics, feminism, or social awareness mainly to appear attractive. A wokefisher may loudly support gender equality, mental health, climate justice, or queer rights online, only for their real-life behaviour to reveal something far less evolved. The trend—seen as a red flag—has gained traction through dating apps and social media, where political identity has increasingly become part of personal branding through curated Instagram infographics.

Image:AI

INBOX

HISTORICAL REALITY

Apropos of '500 years later...' (ATM, May 24), Babur may have left cultural influences, gardens, or memoirs behind, but he was a foreign invader who established rule through forceful conquest. Acknowledging this historical reality cannot be reduced to hatred or insecurity.

—**R T Mannur,** Dombivli

Email your letters to the editor at *sunday.times@timesofindia.com* with 'Sunday Mailbox' in the subject line. Please mention your name and city

How do we spot AI slop? Lessons from the Granta controversy

BY INVITATION

TUHIN CHAKRABARTY

One would think that an editor at a publishing or media house would be able to tell the difference between human-written and AI-generated text with high precision, the way a seasoned jeweller appraises a stone. One look through the loupe, a knowing tilt of the head, and the fake is exposed. The past few weeks have not been very kind to that assumption. On X, a user shared the very popular blog titled 'The quiet grief of adult friendship', noting that it was one of the most beautiful articles she had read in a while, the kind that hits hard. A few hours later, Max Spero, CEO of Pangram Labs (one of the leading AI-detection companies), shared a screenshot suggesting this profound article was 100% AI-generated, which the author later denied. And this was not a singular incident. Within the same week, an Indian author drew AI accusations, and then came the talk of the town: a short story by Jamir Nazir that appeared in Granta and won the Commonwealth Short Story Prize, with lines such as "The girl smiled like sunrise over a sink", leading many readers to cry AI slop. According to Pangram, the text was authored by AI, along with two other stories.

TIDAL WAVE: Ironically, publishers and editors miss AI slop because they haven't read enough of it

At the crux of every one of these unmaskings is a simple fact: it was first caught by a trained eye and then corroborated by an algorithm. The mild irony is just that the trained eye rarely belongs to a veteran gatekeeper. Instead, it belongs to someone chronically online who has read too much ChatGPT output. Coincidentally, a colleague Jenna Russell, now a PhD student at the University of Maryland, wrote a paper on how people who frequently use ChatGPT for writing tasks are accurate and robust detectors of AI-generated text. The problem, then, is epistemic. The editors and gatekeepers at prestigious literary and journalistic venues neither like nor use AI. This, of course, means they may often fail to spot AI-generated prose because they haven't read enough of it to recognise its stylistic tics or idiosyncrasies.

The obvious safeguard is software built exactly for this job. Granta's own publisher, Sigrid Rausing, half-grasped this, noting the irony that AI is the best tool we have for catching AI. Her team then demonstrated the "half" by running the story through Claude (Anthropic's general-purpose LLM), which further muddied the waters by concluding that it was "almost certainly not produced unaided by a human". The wrong AI detector, however, is only part of the problem. Many folks have talked themselves into a deeper blind spot. The prevailing wisdom, absorbed largely from a long-running and contentious fight elsewhere, is that the tools simply don't work. Free, low-quality detectors really are easy to fool, as the internet keeps proving: feed one a passage of Frankenstein and it brands Mary Shelley a machine. Another common objection is how AI detectors can be biased towards non-native speakers. Some have put it less gently. The Sri Lankan speculative fiction writer Yudhanjaya Wijeratne attacked the Commonwealth Foundation's director-general Razmi Farook for claiming AI detection tools are trained on text from a "dominant culture," calling it a shallow orientalist excuse and an insult to writing.

As a computer scientist, I want to offer my two cents. Blanket statements such as "AI detectors don't work" are usually not backed by empirical evidence but instead rely on isolated anecdotes. Independent research from UChicago Booth found that some commercial detectors achieve near-zero false-positive rates that hold up even against 'humanizer' tools. More recently, with support from Pangram Labs, the writer Vauhini Vara analysed past Commonwealth Short Story Prize winners and found no evidence of AI use before 2025. This fits the timeline, since the generative-AI boom only began in 2023 and adoption takes time.

It isn't impossible to evade AI detectors. Research has shown that by significant editing or fine tuning, it is possible to pass off AI-generated text as human. But that effort proves the opposite point. If you have to heavily edit or fine-tune AI output to slip it past a detector, you've done the real work that good writing takes anyway. A detector doesn't need to be unbeatable but rather just make faking it more trouble than writing the thing. Using reliable tools to screen for LLM-generated text is critical, as AI slop floods submissions at a scale we as humans aren't equipped to handle. If we are to preserve human creativity and originality of expression, fears about potentially making false accusations must give way to enlightened conversations about how and why we're using generative AI, about when it's OK and when it's not. Editors, prize juries and publishers should be drawing the line between the legitimate use of AI to assist research and revision and the dubious use of it to generate prose that is then passed off as someone's own work.

In her essay 'Why I Write', Joan Didion said she wrote entirely to find out what she was thinking. Outsource that and you've saved time, but skipped the only part that mattered. A detector cannot save culture on its own. But it can buy us the time to remember what we are protecting, and why. ■

Chakrabarty is assistant professor at Stony Brook University in New York. His research focuses on Generative AI, AI Writing, and Copyright Law

Price of Indian crude basket below $100/barrel for lst time since Mar 6

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Getty Images

Re depreciation likely to negate gains of lower crude price

New Delhi: The price of the Indian oil basket fell below $100 a barrel on Friday for the first time since March 6, as global crude prices cooled by 11% over the past week amid reports that the US and Iran may have reached a deal and that the Strait of Hormuz could soon reopen for the smooth movement of shipments.

The cost of crude for Indian refiners dropped to $97.52 a barrel on Friday, while global benchmark Brent crude fell to $91.12 a barrel. While the recent decline in crude prices is expected to reduce input costs for Indian refiners, it may not fully eliminate the under-recoveries on petrol, diesel and LPG, which are currently estimated at Rs 550 crore per day. The sharp depreciation of the rupee will however eat up some of the gains of lower crude price.

The war in West Asia had disrupted the key energy route linking the region with global markets, squeezing oil and gas supplies and triggering a sharp rise in prices. The Indian oil basket rose from an average of $69 a barrel in February to $114.5 in April and is averaging $106.83 a barrel so far in May. Brent crude also witnessed significant volatility during this period, touching an intraday high of nearly $126 a barrel on April 30 before settling at $103.54 at the end of last week.

The surge in input costs prompted state-run oil marketing companies to revise petrol and diesel prices four times since May 15, raising them by nearly 7.8% to ease the pressure of mounting losses.

Market analysts, however, believe that restoring normal shipping activity through the Strait of Hormuz could take several months. Repairs to damaged energy infrastructure and the restoration of full operational capacity may also require considerable time.

'Deal with Germany for 6 subs in a few months, to involve full tech transfer'

Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who led the Indian Navy during Operation Sindoor and spearheaded operations to safeguard India's energy vessels during the Gulf conflict, is also credited with the Navy's technological transformation and fleet modernisation. On the eve of completion of his over two-year term as 26th Chief of Naval Staff since April 30, 2024, he spoke exclusively to ***TOI's Surendra Singh****. Excerpts:*

TOI INTERVIEW

Pakistan is acquiring 8 Hangor-class subs from China to modernise its naval fleet. We can build nuclear subs, but we need foreign collaboration for assembling conventional subs in India. Why? When can we expect a sub deal with Germany?

■ While India has made remarkable progress in strategic nuclear submarine capability (recently commissioned the third indigenous N-sub), certain advanced conventional submarine technologies still require collaborative development and technology partnerships. The Project-75(I) for the construction of six next-generation conventional submarines equipped with air independent propulsion (in collaboration with Germany) is not merely about acquiring submarines (subs). It is being pursued under the strategic partnership model with a complete transfer of technology and design transfer to strengthen India's indigenous submarine design and manufacturing ecosystem. The conclusion of the contract — India's Mazagon Dock with Germany's TKMS — is likely to take a few more months. The first sub is expected to be inducted in 2033, followed by one every year until 2038.

During Op Sindoor, 'Navy was just minutes away from launching sea-based strikes', in your own words. Will Navy play a big role if the conflict happens again?

■ The forward deployment of a carrier battle group and our aggressive operational posture in the northern Arabian Sea forced the Pakistan Navy to remain confined to their ports or close to the Makran coast. This constrained the adversary's options and delivered a blow to the adversary's economy, as global shipping companies avoided their ports due to increased shipping risks and insurance premiums. Operation demonstrated the effectiveness of integrated military capability. If any future conflict happens, the Indian Navy will play a decisive, substantial role. We maintain readiness for kinetic action — both offensive and defensive.

After attacks on India-bound oil tankers during the Iran war, does the Indian Navy have a long-term plan, like setting up naval bases in the Gulf, to secure our maritime trade routes?

■ India's economic growth and energy security are closely linked to safe and secure maritime trade routes. The Navy's immediate priority has been to ensure safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz and the wider Arabian Sea through presence, surveillance, and escort when needed. Our long-term plan on securing these maritime trade routes has been to strengthen maritime domain awareness, operational reach and partnerships, rather than rely on any single fixed solution. We maintain a continuous presence in critical shipping lanes, such as maintaining one ship continuously in the Gulf of Aden for anti-piracy duties since 2008. Our Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) has established linkages with partner countries to coordinate operational responses.

Operation Sindoor demonstrated the effectiveness of integrated military capability. If any future conflict happens, the Indian Navy will play a decisive, substantial role

With China increasing its bases in the IOR, what steps can the Indian Navy take to play a dominating role in the region?

■ The Indian Navy's efforts are not aimed at any specific nation, nor do we frame our objectives merely around "dominating" the region. Our overarching goal is to ensure the absolute security of India's maritime interests and contribute to a stable, free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific. We focus on several strategic steps — firstly, we are augmenting our force levels and are firmly on course to become a 200-plus ship Navy by 2035; secondly, we have maintained persistent operational reach through mission-based deployments and maritime domain awareness, keeping our ships and aircraft in near-continuous presence at critical choke points and across IOR; and finally, India has significantly deepened regional maritime cooperation under the vision of MAHASAGAR.

During your term as CNS, the Navy has witnessed numerous commissioning of Make-in-India warships. However, the content of indigenisation is still hovering around 60 to 90%. Will it ever be 100%?

■ We're transitioning from a 'buyer's Navy' to a 'builder's Navy'. The commissioning of INS Udayagiri (stealth frigate) as our 100th indigenously designed warship marked a defining milestone, and today we take pride that all 45 ships currently under construction are being built in Indian shipyards. Ships commissioned recently feature a near 80% overall indigenisation content. Indigenisation must not be viewed only in percentage terms. The real objective is the creation of sovereign capability, technological depth and long-term strategic autonomy across critical technologies, materials, design, propulsion, weapons, combat systems, sensors, and electronics. Achieving 100% indigenous content is a long-term goal.

Under you, the Navy is witnessing a transition into a future-ready force through the integration of AI and quantum tech. What is your opinion?

■ Future battlespace will reward forces that can integrate technology, operational concepts and human capability seamlessly, which is why the Indian Navy has focused on becoming a technologically adaptive, data-enabled, operationally agile, and future-ready force.

The transition toward a future-ready force has been immensely supported by national initiatives like 'Make in India', the Technology Development Fund, and the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX). Technology alone will not win wars; integrated capability will.

Man hacked to death in front of wife, kids over property in TN

Trichy: An armed gang barged into a house and hacked a man to death, forcing his wife and children to watch, at Sengalipuram in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvarur early on Saturday, police said. Police arrested four of the assailants and said the motive was a property dispute between the victim, Thirumugam, a 48-year-old brick kiln supervisor, and one of the assailants, Raja.

Thirumugam's wife, Sudha, 45, was also seriously injured as she tried to protect her husband. Their son Suman, 15, and daughter Deyasini, 13, were immobilized by the gang and forced to watch helpless as their father was hacked.

Neighbours rushed to the house after hearing the family's cries. They found Thirumugam dead and Sudha injured. Sudha was taken to Thanjavur Govt Medical College Hospital for treatment. Thirumugam's son was also injured.

In the morning, relatives of Thirumugam blocked a road and demanded action against the culprits. Police said they would intensify the probe and search for all perpetrators. TNN

Bengal deports nine B'deshis from Malda holding centre

Subhro Maitra | TNN

Malda: Authorities deported three women and six children to Bangladesh Thursday night after holding them for four days at a detention facility for illegal immigrants in north Bengal's Malda district, sources said Saturday while officials declined comments.

The nine were picked up during a police search at Pandua under Gazole police station in Malda district May 24 and taken to a "holding centre" at English Bazaar in Malda town.

Sources said they were escorted to the India-Bangladesh border late Thursday and handed over to Bangladeshi authorities. The facility is now vacant. Officials claimed detainees admitted during questioning that they were residents of Imampur village in Bangladesh's Rangpur division and had entered Bengal illegally through Hili, a border town in Dakshin Dinajpur district. Deportations came days after state govt directed district magistrates to establish holding centres for foreigners found living in Bengal without valid documents. Malda facility, housed on one floor of a self-help group training centre, was among first set up in state, along with another in Murshidabad.

Authorities have since established nine more facilities across several districts, including North 24 Parganas. As of Friday, 386 suspected Bangladeshis were being housed in 11 centres across state, according to sources. Railway police intercepted Saturday four more Bangladeshis at Bongaon station and sent them to a newly opened holding centre in North 24 Parganas. GRP said the four were residents of Satkhira and Jessore districts in Bangladesh. Curbing cross-border infiltration has been a key BJP poll promise, with party politicians pledging stricter border enforcement and identification of undocumented immigrants and their deportation.

Consensual relationship can't be criminalised later: Orissa HC

Lalmohan Patnaik | TNN

Cuttack: Orissa HC has acquitted a 25-year-old man convicted of raping a married woman, ruling that consensual relationships between adults cannot later be turned into criminal prosecutions unless lack of consent is proved beyond reasonable doubt.

Justice SK Panigrahi set aside a July 2025 conviction and 10-year prison sentence handed down by a fast-track court in Jeypore under sections 376(1) and 450 of IPC, finding that prosecution failed to establish essential elements of rape.

Prosecution alleged the man entered the woman's house in Koraput district on May 21, 2022, and sexually assaulted her while she was alone. He challenged the conviction before HC, arguing that medical evidence did not support allegations of rape.

Defence counsel pointed to a medical examination that found no signs of recent sexual intercourse or external and internal injuries. Appeal also highlighted the woman's testimony that the accused was known to her family and frequently visited their home. In its May 22 judgment, uploaded online on May 27, HC said consensual intimacy arising from a voluntary relationship between adults does not amount to rape "unless the essential ingredients constituting absence of free consent are prima facie established". It added that section 90 of IPC, which deals with consent obtained through fear or misconception, cannot be invoked without supporting evidence.

"Where a mature and married woman voluntarily consents to sexual intercourse and subsequently seeks to characterise the same as an offence of rape, the allegations are required to be examined with greater caution," Justice Panigrahi said. HC found prosecution had failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that consent was absent or that criminal intent existed. It took note of delays in filing FIR and shortcomings.

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MUDALIYAR, 30, 178 cms, B.Com, Business, Lives in Chennai. Looking for suitable bride from equivalent community. Call: 6366530308

MUDALIYAR, Divorcee, 34, 180 cms, Business, Lives in Chennai. Looking for suitable bride from same community. Call: 6366530308

MUDIRAJ, 31, 193 cms, Hyderabad. Father doctor, Respectable family. Seeking educated bride from caste no bar. Call: 6366530312

MUSLIM-HANAFI, 30, 165 cms, MBA professional from Canada. Seeking bride from same community in Canada. Call: 6366530308

NADAR, 28, 183 cms, B.Arch, Businessman, Lives in Chennai. Seeking suitable match from the same community. Call: 6366530308

NAIDU, 31, 193 cms, Management Prof. Father CEO. Seeking well-educated bride from respectable family. Call: 6366530312

NAIDU, 31, 193 cms, Management Prof. Father CEO, Respectable family. Seeking suiatble well-educated bride. Call: 6366530312

NAIR, 25, 178 cms, B.Com LLB, Business, Lives in Trivandrum. Looking for the bride from the same community. Call: 6366530310

NAIR, 30, 170 cms, M.D., Doctor, Lives in Pathanamthitta. Looking for suitable bride from any community. Call: 6366530310

NAIR, 34, 173 cms, M.D., Doctor, Lives in Kannur. Looking for the suitable bride from any community. Call: 6366530310

PILLAI, 42, 178 cms, Financial Consultant, Lives in London. Seeking suitable match from equivalent community. Call: 6366530308

PROTESTANT, 29, 170 cms, Entrepreneur, Hyderabad. Father Addl SP. Seeking well-educated Christian bride. Call: 6366530312

REDDY, 49 ,180 cms, CA, widower, Respectable family. Seeking suitable match from well-educated match same community. Call: 6366530312

SAGARA, 30 , 168 cms, Doctor. Father doctor. Seeking a match from the well-educated bride from caste no bar. Call: 6366530312

SC, 29, 180, Medical Professional, Hyderabad, Real estate business. Seeking educated bride same community. Call: 6366530312

UDAIYAR, 32, 185 cms, M.Tech, Business, Lives in Chennai. Looking for suitable bride from any community. Call: 6366530308

UDAYAR, 29, 175 cms, MS, Businessman from Tanjore. Seeking suitable match from Udayar/Parkavakulam bride. Call: 6366530307

VANIYA Chettiar, 38, 180 cms, Business, Lives in Pondicherry. Seeking match from any equivalent community. Call: 6366530308

VANNIYA Kula Kshatriyar, 29, 170 cms, Entrepreneur from Chennai. Seeking bride from the same community. Call: 6366530297

VOKKALIGA, 36, 178 cms, Program Manager from USA. Seeking for the suitable match from the same community. Call: 6366530297

YADAV, 32, 180cms, Hyderabad(AP),unm. Business family. Father businessman. Seeking educated Yadav bride. Call: 6366530312

YADAVA, 26, 175 cms, MBA, Professional from Bangalore. Seeking good looking bride from same community. Call: 6366530307

KAPU, 30, 175 cms, Software Professional from Canada. Seeking suitable match from the same community. Call: 6366530297

KSHATRIYA Raju, 28, 178 cms, Senior Engineer from the USA. Seeking a suitable bride from the same community. Call: 6366530297

MARATHI, 40,175 cms, MS, Business Analyst in San Francisco. Seeking bride from same community in USA. Call: 6366530308

NAIR, 34, 183 cms, C.A., Financial Controller, Lives in UAE. Looking for suitable bride from any community. Call: 6366530310

WANTED GROOMS

WANTED GROOMS

IYER, 25, 155 cms, Lawyer, Bangalore. Father CEO of an MNC. Seeking a match from well-settled family. Call: 6366530296

ARYA Vysya, 26, 152cms, unmarried. PG medical. Father businessman. Seeking Bangalore/Kolar/Tumkur family. Call: 6366448338

ARYA Vysya,28, 163 cms, Hyderabad, Working professional. Father employee. Seeking well-educated groom. Call: 6366448338

BALIJA, 31, 170 cms, Senior Consultant, USA. Father Businessman. Seeking a seeking well-settled match. Call: 6366530296

IYER, 26, 173 cms, MD, Lives in Bangalore. Looking for a suitable groom from the same community. Call: 6366530307

BRAHMIN, 25, 165 cms, MBBS living in USA. Seeks well-educated groom from same community in USA. Call: 6366530308

BRAHMIN-IYER, 25, 165 cms, MBA, Professional from Chennai. Looking for the groom from the well settled family. Call: 6366530308

BUNT (Shetty), 29, 191 cms, Financial Analyst, London. Seeking a match from Bunt Shetty match. Call: 6366530296

CATHOLIC, 27, 160 cms, MS Eng, Engineer, Lives in Canada. Looking for groom from the same community. Call: 6366530311

CHETTIAR, 28, 163 cms, Student from Coimbatore. Seeking the suitable settled groom from same community. Call: 6366530308

CHETTIAR, 34, 165 cms, Management professional, Lives in Chennai. Looking for groom from any community Call: 6366530307

CHRISTIAN, 27, 163 cms, M.S, Doctor from Chennai. Seeking for the suitable doctor groom from settled family. Call: 6366530308

DEVAR, 26, 165 cms, MD. Lives in Madurai. Looking for a suitable groom from equivalent community. Call: 6366530307

DHEEVARA, 23, 160 cms, M.Com, Lives in Mumbai. Looking for a suitable groom from any community. Call: 6366530311

DIVORCED, Arya Vysya, 49, 157 cms, Entrepreneur, Bangalore. Seeking groom from any community. Call: 6366530296

DIVORCED, Kamma, 37, 160 cms, Entrepreneur, Chennai. Seeking a match from the Tamil/Telugu alliance. Call: 6366530296

EZHAVA, 29, 160 cms, MBA, Data Scientist, lives in Australia. Looking for a suitable groom from any community. Call: 6366530311

GAVARA Naidu, 25, Doctor from Pondicherry. Seeking the suitable educated groom from Naidu community. Call: 6366530308

GOUD, 29, 168 cms, USA settled, unmarried. Father govt employee. Seeking the well-educated Goud groom. Call: 6366448338.

GOWDA, 29, 169 cms, Advisor, Bangalore. Father Executive Director in MNC. Seeking a match from the same community. Call: 6366530296

KAMMA Naidu, 25, 175 cms, Doctor, Hyderabad. Father businessman. Seeking the educated groom (Kamma Naidu). Call: 6366448338

KAMMA Naidu, 26, 170cms, MBA, CMA from Chennai. Seeking suitable educated groom from Naidu community. Call: 6366530308

KAMMA, 32, 163 cms, Unm, Software Pro, USA. Father retired bank emp. Seeking the educated Kamma groom. Call: 6366448338

KAMMA, 32, 163 cms, USA Software Professional. Father retired bank employee. Seeking educated Kamma groom. Call: 6366448338

KAPU, 30, 175 cms, Software Professional from Canada. Seeking suitable alliance from the same community. Call: 6366530296

KHANDAYAT, 32, 157 cms, Fashion Designer, Bangalore. Seeking suitable match from the equivalent community. Call: 6366530296

KSHATRIYA Raju, 28, 178 cms, Pursuing CA, Bangalore. Seeking a suitable groom from same caste. Call: 6366530296

KSHATRIYA, 26, 163 cms, Hyderabad/Karnataka, Father businessman. Seeking a suitable educated Kshatriya groom. Call: 6366448338

KSHATRIYA, 29, 160 cms, Delhi professional. Business family. Seeking a suitable Educated family in Delhi settled. Call: 6366448338

KURUBA, 26, 157 cms, Pursuing Medicine, Bangalore. Father Businessman. Seeking match from same community match. Call: 6366530296

LEVA Patel, 30, 165 cms, Pharm D, Medical professional in Boston. Seeks groom from same community in USA. Call: 6366530307

LINGAYAT, 26, 160 cms, Architect, Bangalore. Father Businessman. Seeking for the well-settled match. Call: 6366530296

MARATHI,35,163 cms, MS, Business Analyst, from Dubai. Seeking groom from equivalent community from any location. Call: 6366530307

MUDALIYAR, 35, 175 cms, MCH, Lives in Chennai. Looking for the suitable groom from any equivalent community. Call: 6366530307

MUNNUR Kapu, 26, 163 cms, Software Pro, Hyderabad. Seeking the suitable educated groom (Munnur Kapu/-Reddy). Call: 6366448338

NADAR, 22, 165cms, B.com, Not working, Father in Business, from Chennai. Seeking groom from same community. Call: 6366530307

NADAR, 32, 163 cms, Medical Professional. Lives in Chennai. Seeking doctor groom from any community. Call: 6366530307

NAIDU, 26, 158 cms, MD. Lives in Chennai. Looking for a suitable groom from the equivalent community. Call: 6366530307

NAIR, 27, 150 cms, M.Sc, Manager, Lives in London. Looking for a suitable groom from the same community. Call: 6366530311

NAIR, 27, 155 cms, M.Sc, Manager, Lives in Chennai. Looking for groom from the same community. Call: 6366530311

NAIR, 28, 160 cms, C.A, Business,Lives in UAE. Looking for the suitable groom from the same community. Call: 6366530311

NAIR, 28, 165 cms, MD, Medical Professional, Lives in Chennai. Looking for a suitable groom from India. Call: 6366530311

NAIR, 33, 168 cms, MS Eng, Manager, Lives in London. Looking for a suitable groom from same community. Call: 6366530311

PILLAI, 26,158 cms, Medical Professional, Lives in Mumbai. Seeking doctor groom from any community. Call: 6366530307

REDDY, 29, 163 cms, unm, Vijayawada, decent family. Seeking the suitable grroom in educated settled family match. Call: 6366448338

REDDY, 29, 163 cms, Vijayawada, decent family. Seeking the suitable groom from well-educated settled family. Call: 6366448338

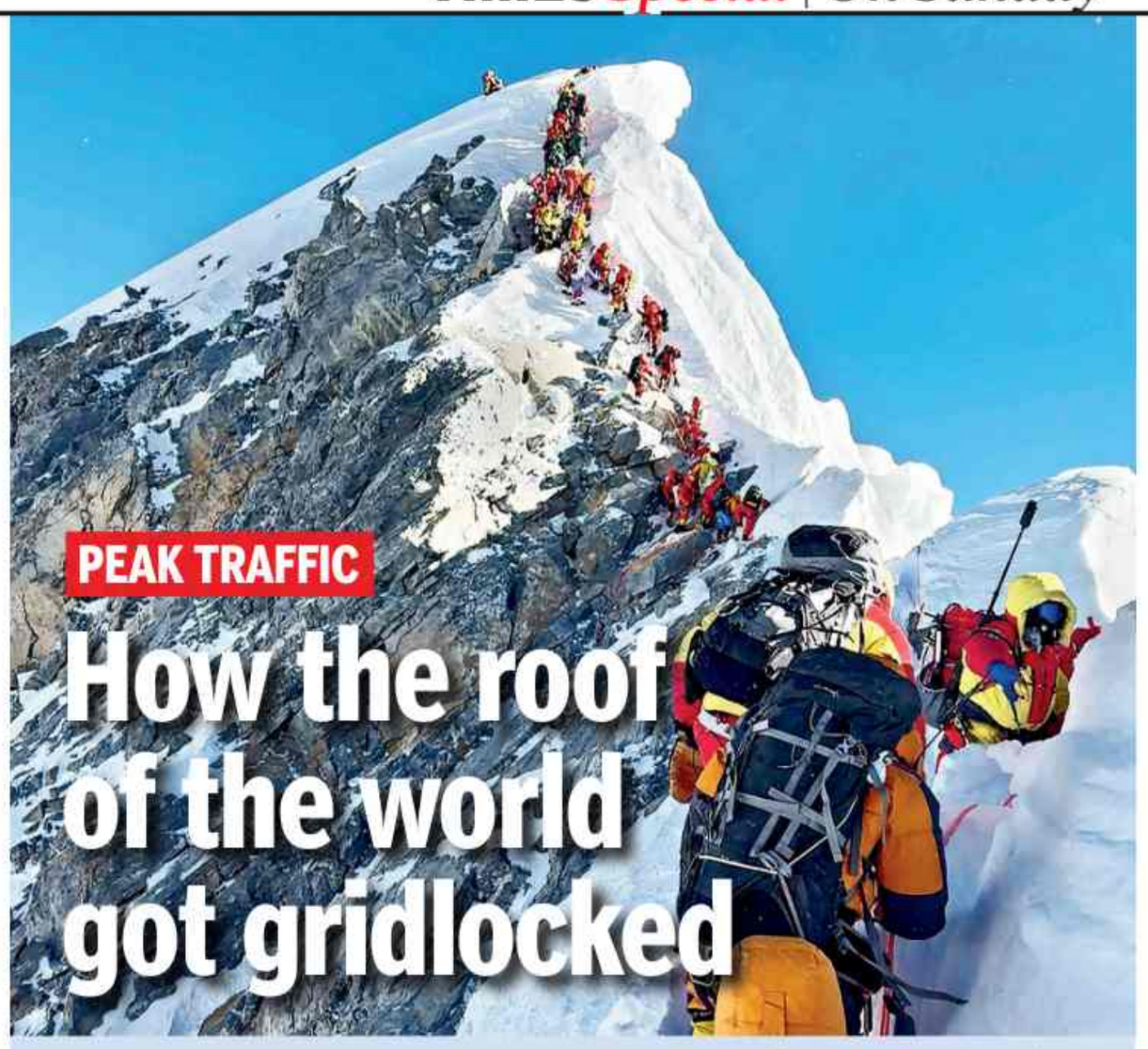
REDDY, 30, 157 cms, Electronics Engineer, USA. Seeking a suiatble groom from the same community. Call: 6366530296

REDDY, 36, 163 cms, unm, MedProf, Busfather. Seeking a suitable groom from the well-educated Reddy family. Call: 6366448338

VISHWABRAHMIN , 28, 163 cms, unm, Mgmt & Accts Pro, Bangalore. Seeking the educated groom AP/Telangana. Call: 6366448338

MUSLIM Sunni, 25, 163 cms, pursuing M.D, lives in Chennai. Looking for groom from the same community. Call: 6366530311

"THESE PROFILES ARE FROM ELITE MATRIMONY"



PEAK TRAFFIC

How the roof of the world got gridlocked

As luxury camps and professionally managed expeditions draw record numbers to Everest, delays and fatalities are becoming an accepted part of the climb

Vishant.Agarwala@timesofindia.com

Mount Everest's most revealing modern image is no longer the solitary climber above the clouds. It is the queue: dozens, sometimes hundreds, of climbers in bright down suits clipped to the same rope, waiting near the top of the world for a few seconds of private triumph on a mountain that has become increasingly public.

Tashi Gyalzen Sherpa, 30, a guide with Kathmandu-based 8K Expeditions, has seen what that moment now looks like from close range. Climbers arrive at the summit exhausted after weeks on the mountain, plant their country's flag, remove the oxygen mask for a quick photograph, take the flag back and step down because another queue is already forming behind them. "It is like taking a selfie with a celebrity," Tashi told TOI from Kathmandu.

The choreography keeps repeating itself each season. The scale of that number becomes clearer against Everest's history.

> At that altitude, even standing is tiring. You look up and see lights above you, then look down and see more lights coming from below. Nobody can simply unclip and pass. Once there's a queue, you can only climb as fast as the slowest climber
>
> **Tashi Gyalzen Sherpa,** A GUIDE WITH KATHMANDU-BASED 8K EXPEDITIONS

COST OF CLIMBING EVEREST

$35,000-$120,000 (₹30 lakh-₹1cr) for all-inclusive package (22-60 days)

$300,000 (₹2.5cr) for a luxury expedition

WHAT IT INCLUDES

- Nepal govt permit $15,000 (₹14.3 lakh) per climber
- Kathmandu-Lukla-Kathmandu domestic flights
- Porters and yaks for equipment transport to Base Camp
- Base Camp stay with heated dome tents
- Mandatory icefall doctor fee for Sherpas who fix ladders, ropes in Khumbu Icefall
- Dedicated high-altitude Sherpa guide per climber (some take 3-4 guides)
- 5-6 supplemental oxygen cylinders per climber
- Technical equipment
- $1,500 (₹1.3 lakh) Sherpa cash bonus after a successful summit (Not included in package or mandated, but an industry norm)

Between Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa's first ascent in 1953 and the beginning of successful commercial guiding in 1992, only 394 people reached the summit. Everest recorded its busiest spring climbing season this year, with 1,008 climbers reaching the summit — the highest tally ever — surpassing the 2019 ascent record of 872. "Exactly 1,008 mountaineers stood on top of the world under this year's spring mountaineering season," Khim Lal Gautam, coordinator of Nepal tourism department's temporary field office at the Base Camp, said on Friday afternoon, hours before Sherpa teams started removing ropes, tents and other equipment from the route above Base Camp. This is the first time that over 1,000 people have summited.

This climbing season witnessed severe crowding after a massive serac blocked the Khumbu Icefall, delaying the opening of the route to Camp 1 until April 28 — about 20 days later than usual — and forcing hundreds of climbers to wait at Base Camp for nearly three weeks. The delay compressed acclimatisation schedules and summit attempts into a much shorter period. The situation was worsened by China keeping the north face in Tibet closed to foreign expeditions. Climbers and guides this season described sections of the route marked by discarded packaging, abandoned gear and a trail of toilet paper frozen into the snow leading towards the summit.

Everest didn't become crowded because the mountain changed, but because the climb did. What was once an expedition attempted by elite climbers with years of technical experience has evolved into a commercial system built around logistics, predictability and support. Fixed ropes guide climbers through much of the route. Ladders bridge crevasses in Khumbu Icefall. Camps are stocked in advance. Oxygen is carried higher. Sherpa teams prepare the mountain before most clients make their summit push.

The modern commercial era began taking shape in 1985, when Richard Bass, a wealthy American businessman with little mountaineering experience, reached the summit with professional help and became the first person to complete the Seven Summits challenge. On the summit, he told guide David Breashears: "You got me up — and I know you'll get me down." By 1992, operators such as Adventure Consultants were regularly guiding paying clients to the summit. As commercial guiding matured, the Base Camp, at 5,300 metres, evolved. Now, at the start of spring each year, Base Camp becomes a temporary settlement of tents, dining domes, kitchens, communication centres and sleeping camps. Expedition companies offer heated dining spaces, chefs, bakeries, espresso machines, phone-charging stations, Wi-Fi, and even massages.

Everest, however, still imposed its oldest constraint: time. The summit season depends on a short weather window in May, when the jet stream weakens before the monsoon arrives. Teams spend weeks acclimatising while waiting for winds to ease and ropes to be fixed. Once the route opens, expeditions that had been spread across Base Camp begin moving upward together, turning the climb into a slow procession.

Camp IV on South Col, a jagged, windswept mountain pass, becomes a staging ground. Around midnight, climbers leave in long chains of headlamps, moving slowly into the dark. Higher up, the route narrows near Balcony, South Summit and Hillary Step, after which, only around 60 vertical metres to the summit, and within sight of the top, climbers find themselves standing still. Tashi remembered one summit push this season when the line above South Summit stopped moving for nearly half an hour: "At that altitude, even standing is tiring," he said. "People cannot unclip and pass another climber. So everyone just waits. Sometimes you look up and see lights above you, and look down to see more lights coming from below."

Passing another climber at that altitude is difficult and sometimes dangerous. Most climbers remain attached to fixed ropes, making overtaking risky on steep terrain. In practice, many simply wait. "Once there's a queue, you can only climb as fast as the slowest climber," said Tashi. Most climbers still descend safely, but a delay above 8,000m carries a different weight from almost any delay elsewhere on earth. Oxygen keeps running while climbers stand still. Fingers freeze inside gloves. More than 70% of Everest's roughly 340 recorded deaths have occurred during descent, including those of Indian climbers Arun Kumar Tiwari and Sandeep Are last week.

Veteran English climber Kenton Cool, who completed his 20th Everest ascent this season, said the problem often lay less with the mountain than with the decisions made before climbers reached it. "It is the operators who should be more diligent with who they allow to be with the team," he said. Others inside the climbing world have become more direct about the congestion on the Nepal side. On Thursday, American endurance athlete Tyler Andrews returned to Base Camp after summiting Everest in a record nine hours and 55 minutes. Despite attempting a no-oxygen speed record five times in two years, Andrews said he would not return to the south side (Nepal) of Everest. "It is just too complicated, dangerous, and crowded for me to make any more speed attempts here."

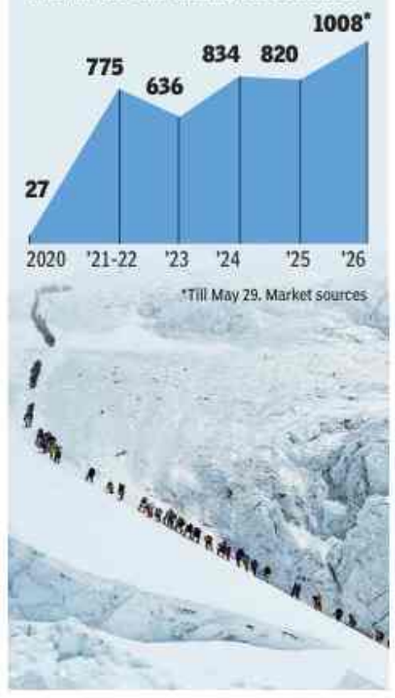
Kami Rita Sherpa, who climbed Everest for a record 32nd time this season, also offered a simpler assessment after returning to Kathmandu. "It was very crowded this year compared to last year," he said. "Authorities need to control this number."

That debate will only continue. Because Everest is no longer only a mountain, but also an economy that supports guides, porters, cooks, trekking agencies, helicopter operators, hotels and entire communities tied to mountaineering tourism. Nepal raised the spring permit fee for foreign climbers to $15,000 in 2025, but higher fees have done little to reduce demand.

Everest has become more professionally managed, and more reachable than at any point in its history. Yet, the mountain remains the same. The weather window is brief, and the route narrow even as hundreds of climbers converge on the same thin strip of ice each spring, waiting their turn at the top of the world.

1,000 AND CLIMBING

No. of summits this decade. This year, the number has already crossed 1,000



ROPES ARE THEIR SCALPELS, SCREWS THEIR STETHOSCOPES

Every spring, before climbers begin their ascent of Everest, a small team of specialist Sherpas known as 'icefall doctors' enters Khumbu Icefall to cut a passage through the expedition's most treacherous part. This season, a 30-metre ice wall shut the route for nearly two weeks before the doctors reopened access to Camp I in late April.

Ang Sarki Sherpa, current sardar of icefall doctors

Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC), which manages the Khumbu Icefall route, recruits around 11 icefall doctors each season. One of them is Dawa Jangbu Sherpa, 28, who is counting down to the season's end.

Dawa, who has summited Everest three times, says the title reflects the job. "We repair the route so others can climb," he told TOI. "People come from across the world to stand on top of the world, but the mountain does not forgive mistakes. One wrong step can take a life. Our job is to keep them safe."

Ang Sarki Sherpa, 55, the current sardar of icefall doctors, works in a glacier that can move several feet in a day, opening cracks and destroying ropes secured only hours earlier. "The icefall is a living creature," he said. "It groans, and changes when you turn your back." The doctors usually start around 2am, inspecting anchors, replacing broken ladders and rerouting damaged sections before climbers begin crossing after sunrise.

One officially designated icefall doctor death has been recorded in recent decades: Mingmar Sherpa, who fell into a hidden crevasse in 2013.

At season's end, they dismantle the ladders and ropes before another team returns the following spring.

Retired icefall doctor Ang Kami Sherpa, 74, spent more than four decades opening the route through Khumbu Icefall but never stood on Everest's summit. Asked by a documentary filmmaker why he worked so hard for so long, he smiled and said, "Because of my wife. She says, 'No money, no honey'."

INQUIZITIVE

JOY BHATTACHARJYA

1 Which enduring work of Indian fiction, made into film more than once, tells of the friendship of Rahmat and Mini?

2 Which word connects the French National Football team, the Italian National Football team, the Indian National and New South Wales cricket teams, and Chelsea football club?

3 The scientific name of which animal, 'camelopardalis,' came from the ancient Greek that suggested its camel-like shape and leopard-like colouration?

4 Which breed of dog, originally meant to retrieve game from water, got its peculiar haircut just to make sure that while the vital organs were protected with a thick coat of hair, the bottom part of the body was shorn back to allow the dog to keep afloat?

5 What did former schoolmates and roommates Brian Chesky and Joe Gebbia start after their success in putting an air mattress in their living room and renting it out during an industrial designers conference?

6 In the annual NEET examination for entrance to medical colleges, there are a total of 180 questions asked, with 45 each asked from Physics and Chemistry. Which two subjects, often regarded as one in schools, make up the next two sets of 45 questions each?

7 Veteran sports administrator and sportsperson Randhir Singh won India's first Asian Games gold medal in a specific discipline and represented India in five Olympic Games in the same discipline. Which one?

8 Neodymium, Promethium, Erbium, Thulium, Ytterbium, Scandium, and Yttrium are some of a category of 17 metals that are not usually found in concentrated deposits in the crust of our planet. What two letter name is used to refer to these metals?

9 Which enduring saga tells the story of Vito Andolini and his wife Carmelo and their four children Santino, Frederico, Michael and Constanzia?

10 Which branded snack, one of the most produced on the planet, got its name from the suburb in Mumbai where it started being manufactured by the Chauhan family in 1947, and the fact that it contained a type of sugar?

ANSWERS

1 | Kabuliwala, by Rabindranath Tagore
2 | Blue (Les Blues, Gli Azzurl, the Men in Blue, NSW Blue and the Blues)
3 | Giraffe
4 | The Poodle
5 | Airbnb
6 | Botany and Zoology
7 | Shooting (trap)
8 | Rare Earth elements or metals
9 | The Godfather
10 | Parle G biscuits, originally Parle Gluco biscuits

Can Chacha Chaudhary outsmart ChatGPT?

From eco-conscious Shikari Shambhu to tech-savvy vetalas, India's comic-book icons are getting a reboot to keep pace with AI, anime & short attention spans

Sharmila.Ganesan@timesofindia.com

Tinkle aunty. That's what her kids' friends call wildlife filmmaker Akanksha Sood Singh. The nickname came from her father, a navy man in Colaba who grew up reading Indian comics. "In 1980, the hoarding for Tinkle comics went up on top of Regal Cinema in Colaba. I was born the same year that it was launched, and so he would call me Tinkle," says Singh, who credits the cowardly khaki-sporting moustachioed hunter Shikari Shambu for shaping her interest in wildlife, and still remembers laughing at the goof-ups of "that bald guy" whose name now escapes her memory.

Today, that bald guy — Suppandi — has evolved from a towel-clad village simpleton into a blazer-sporting city freelancer whose mascot drew crowds amid snazzy Marvel heroes at Comic Con Mumbai recently.

"Suppandi is a superstar," says Gayathri Chandrasekaran, editor-in-chief, Tinkle Comics Studio, recalling queues of nostalgic parents and Gen Z readers waiting for selfies. Born in 1983 from a reader-submitted story and loosely inspired by the Tamil folklore figure Chappandi, Suppandi now carries swords to office presentations so he can 'slay' them, and washes laptops when the boss asks him to clear tasks. "He is relatable to all generations," says Chandrasekaran, about the simpleton whose fans include 11-year-old manga fan Saanvi Mehta from Pune: "If he were an anime character, he'd get big expressive eyes, chibi mode for fails, and over-the-top sound effects for his blunders," says Saanvi.

Even as AI, vertical scrolling comic-book apps and reels reshape entertainment habits, India's iconic comic-book characters are being reimagined for a new generation without losing the cultural roots that made them enduring favourites.

Chacha Chaudhary, once celebrated for having a brain "faster than a computer", must now outrun artificial intelligence. A recent Pran's Features comic titled 'Chacha Chaudhary vs AI' pitched it as a battle where "brains battle bytes" while EiPi Media, a digital production company, announced a partnership to create AI-powered microfilms and content featuring hyper-realistic AI versions of Chacha Chaudhary and Sabu.

At Comic Con in Mumbai last week, Amar Chitra Katha (ACK), which will turn 60 next year, gave a glimpse of the Ramayana with a Liminal VR installation, allowing visitors to walk inside the epic. "People do not come to the Comic Con merely to browse. They come to participate, take pictures and discover new formats. We have to evolve to engage our younger audiences visually," says Savio Mascarenhas, group art director, Tinkle and Amar Chitra Katha. The company has expanded into animation and continues to experiment with visual design.

DESI HEROES: (Clockwise from top) Super Commando Dhruva gets anime styling; Chacha Chaudhary befriends a robot; Nagraj turns darker; Suppandi freelances with a laptop

"In today's world, the competition for books is not other books, but the child's time," adds Chandrasekaran of Tinkle, which has a dedicated app and is also available on Kindle and Magzter.

Given that readers are getting younger and more self-aware, Tinkle's Shikari Shambu has transformed. The spoof big-game hunter from the 80s is now a wildlife photographer and eco-conscious jungle guide. A recent animated micro-series reintroduced him in this newer avatar. Even Shanti, Shambhu's wife, has changed. Once portrayed as a nagging homemaker, she is now a conservation journalist.

While Shanti evolved, Pran's Binny — the rolling-pin-wielding wife of Chacha Chaudhary — remains delightfully unchanged. "She still gets excited by the prospect of a sale because women are still like that. Only the sale has moved online," laughs Nikhil Pran, son of legendary cartoonist Pran Kumar Sharma. Sabu, the friendly giant whose temper can make volcanoes erupt on Jupiter, is still afraid of Binny. "Pinki, the naughty five-year-old, has become more Gen Z in attitude. She questions everything," says Pran, who carries forward the legacy of his father.

Aanshul Verma, managing director of Diamond Comics, recalls attempts to modernise the artwork and layout of Chacha Chaudhary and Sabu after Pran Kumar's death which failed to resonate with readers. "The purists did not like these versions, so we decided not to tinker with the original style," says Verma.

Even as Chacha Chaudhary, Binny and Sabu migrated to newer mediums such as OTT, games, mobiles and merchandise under Nikhil Pran's banner, Diamond Comics retained the legacy characters in pristine form and began introducing newer ones. "Gen Z is a very tough market to crack. They are enamoured by anime and want something edgy, interactive and visual," says Verma.

> People don't come to Comic Con merely to browse. They come to participate and discover new formats. We have to engage younger audiences visually. Today, the competition for books is not other books, but a child's time
>
> **Gayathri Chandrasekaran,** TINKLE COMICS STUDIO

To adapt, the company has spent the last three years investing in gaming. The promos for their upcoming superhero game featuring Shivaay — a godlike figure who carries the fury of storms and sacred ancient power — crossed a million views within a week of launch. "It's a digital-to-physical comic book transition for Gen Z. That's the future," says Verma. "From translations to colouring, AI tools have made us more efficient. We don't use it for storytelling though, only artwork," he says, adding that readers continue returning to older comics for comfort. Requests for old collections continue pouring in as parents seek a digital detox for their children. Some vintage comic sets now fetch thousands of rupees.

"Nostalgia works best when it feels alive, not frozen in time," says Sanjay Gupta, co-founder of Raj Comics, who introduced superheroes such as Nagraj, Super Commando Dhruva and Doga to pre-liberalisation India. Nagraj, who first appeared in 1986, once battled fantasy villains rooted in mythology and morality. Today, he navigates biotechnology, conspiracies and apocalyptic serpent wars in the recent Sarpsatra trilogy. Doga, perhaps the grittiest of the lot, has evolved from street-level vigilantism into stories exploring trauma, corruption and psychological violence.

Vijayankesh Bariar, an AI solutions consultant for Raj Comics, believes audiences now seek emotional complexity. "A darker tone is not just tolerated, but even sought after at times," he says. Raj Comics has also launched a live-action short film series featuring Dhruva and Doga, while a live-action Dhruva film is now in pre-production.

Still, both Gupta and Bariar insist AI cannot replace imagination. "AI can accelerate processes, but it cannot replace human imagination or emotional authenticity," says Gupta. "Fantasy is a product of imagination. AI can help present that imagination faster, not imagine," adds Bariar.

Ironically, the same digital world that fractured attention spans has also revived legacy Indian comics through YouTube explainers, nostalgia pages and online fan clubs. Back at Tinkle, AI itself has become comic material. In the latest holiday special, Chandrasekaran introduced a 'vetala-granny' — a shape-shifting mythological spirit — furious with an Alexa-like device for insulting vetalas, once considered wise beings. Eventually, though, an unlikely friendship ensues between the ancient spirit and AI.

The story is part of Tinkle's push toward newer themes ranging from mental health and inclusivity to environmentalism and gender identity. Linny, a recent non-binary character, led to fan mail from children who did not know about the gender spectrum, says Chandrasekaran. "As a society, we underestimate kids' discernment abilities." She is all for using technology to optimise processes but not at the cost of the story itself. Otherwise, "beauty gets lost. Stories must endure."

Verma, whose favourite pastime is arguing with ChatGPT until it "accepts defeat", could not agree more. "If Pran Kumar were alive today, I'm sure he wouldn't need ChatGPT to make Chacha Chaudhary's brain work faster than ChatGPT." And what about Suppandi? Where does he see himself in five years? "Well, we can't make Suppandi the MD of a company," laughs Chandrasekaran. "So, it will have to be a superhero, perhaps."

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Vidyut Bhawan" Near ISBT, Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002
Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC028675, Tel. No. 0135-2642711

E-TENDER NOTICE

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited invites E-Tender for "Supply, Installation of PLCC system, associated communication & interface equipments etc. at Tapovan-Vishnugad HEP end and for the Data Transmission to PTCUL on Deposited work basis" against Tender Specification no. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-II/SS-02/2026-27. The last date of submission of e-bid is 03.07.2026 upto 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit e-tender website **www.uktenders.gov.in** (tender id no. 2026_PTCU4_96109_1) and for e-tender notice our **website www.ptcul.org.**

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000

No 922/Hqpu/ptcul dated 30.05.2026 Superintending Engineer (C&P-II)

"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences
Raebareli Road Lucknow-226014 (U.P.)
Phones: 0522-2494038,
E-MAIL: jdmm@sgpgi.ac.in, jdmmsgpgims@gmail.com

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR CASHLESS SERVICES FOR HEALTH INSURERS

Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, 2500 bedded Super Specialty Govt Institute, is an autonomous body under Govt of Uttar Pradesh. SGPGI is prepaid hospital and give treatment to patients only on advance payment. SGPGI is currently giving cashless treatment to Ayushman Bharat, Deen Dayal Upadhyay and other government programs. SGPGI wish to start cashless treatments for the patients having health insurance for convenience of the patients undergoing treatment at SGPGI. An EOI (Expression of Interest) is hereby invited from insurance companies/financial institutions/service intermediaries/third party firms for helping SGPGI for empanelment and providing cashless services to its patients having health insurance and seeking treatment.

Interested parties having requisite experience for running this kind of services of empanelment/cashless treatment at various hospitals for at least 3 years are invited to submit their EOI with necessary documents supporting the qualification criteria and other credentials along with the proposed schemes/methodology with time to be taken

Interested parties must submit their EOI along with the following documents:

1. Letter of interest from interested parties on there letter Head, clearly mentioning the name and address of the entity.
2.The Entities should have Experience of running empanelment and cashless facilities at prominent hospitals (list to be attached).
3. The Entities if needed should be able to maintain an advance balance till the time the insurers credit the payment for cashless patients as SGPGI is a prepaid hospital.
4.The EOI should include the entire infrastructure required (front office/back office) and its fixtures and fitting along with manpower, and staff needed for these cashless facilities.
5. The entities can Propose a model where these services are provided without any financial burden to SGPGI.
6. PPP Mode can also be considered for Management of Cashless facilities.
7. Payment for treatment will be charged as per the Government approved treatment rate at SGPGI and should include all consumables charges (Medicine and Consumables charges)which is in practice and as per actuals for each procedure.
8. The Interested bidders are required to send there Proposals, addressed to the Nodal Officer (Cashless Services for Health Insurers), RSD Cell, Room No. 101, Administrative Block, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow 226014, Uttar Pradesh, through Registered Post/Speed Post/Courier to the following address on or before **16.06.2026** (Tuesday), up to 04:30 PM. The envelope should be super scribed with "Proposal of EOI for Cashless Services for Health Insurers".

The Institute shall not be responsible for any postal delay and will not entertain any proposals received **after the prescribed date and time.**

The proposal so received shall be duly reviewed by the Institute, and subsequently invited the suitable bidders for Power Point Presentation on fixed date and time, which will be communicated separately.

Advt. No.:I/18/JDMM/2026-27 Director

कार्यालय मेलाधिकारी, कुम्भ मेला-2027, हरिद्वार।
फोन नं0 01334-224457 Email: procure.kumbhmela2027@gmail.

पत्रांक- 509/कु0मे0-2027/विज्ञापन दिनांक-29 मई, 2026

राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पार्धात्मक (ई-टेन्डरिंग)

मेलाधिकारी, कुम्भ मेला 2027, हरिद्वार द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ई-टेण्डरिंग (टू-बिड सिस्टम) के अन्तर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित सभी सूचना https://uktenders.gov.in पर दिनांक 30.05.2026 से उपलब्ध होंगी। कार्य का विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-

Empanelment of vendors to provide Furniture items on rental basis during the Kumbh 2027-Haridwar)

उपरोक्त कार्य की समय सारिणी निम्नवत् है:-

निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	दिनांक 30.05.2026 को पूर्वान्ह 12:00 बजे
निविदा सम्बन्धी प्रश्नों को प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम तिथि	दिनांक 05.06.2026 को अपरान्ह 06:00 बजे तक
प्री-बिड बैठक	दिनांक 06.06.2026 को अपरान्ह 03:00 बजे
निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक 20.06.2026 को अपरान्ह 03:00 बजे तक
तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तिथि	दिनांक 20.06.2026 को अपरान्ह 03:30 बजे

अपर मेलाधिकारी,
कुम्भ मेला-2027, हरिद्वार

34001/284/2627

GOVERNEMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
SOUTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
Phone : 0680-2281582, e-mail: ccescbam@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]

Bid Identification No. CCE, S.C (R&B)-BAM-02/2026-27 No. 2355 // Dated: 20.05.26

1) The **Chief Construction Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate bid** in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** from eligible contractors for construction of **Building works** as detailed in the table below.
2) Nature of work : Building Works
3) No. of work : 02 Nos.
4) Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/- (online)
5) Class of Contractor : "B" Class / "A" Class / Special Class
6) Availability of Bid document in the website : 04.06.2026 10.00 AM to 19.06.2026 5.30 PM
7) Date of Opening of Bid : 20.06.2026 at 11.30 A.M.
8) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**.
9) Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/-
(Damodar Kaibartta)
Chief Construction Engineer,
Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur
OIPR-34001/34103/1/26-27/0002

13001/682/2627

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation
Progress Through Partnership for Better Bhubaneswar

No. 31571 /Date : 29.05.2026
BMC/SANI/0058/2025

Sanitation section

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

On behalf of the Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Additional Commissioner, BMC invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from interested agencies who fulfil the eligibility criteria requirement set forth in the RFP document for **"Establishment of Municipal Solid Waste feedstock based 50 TPD Charcoal Production unit under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation."** The detail RFP document can be seen and downloaded from BMC website **http://bmc.gov.in** from 01.06.2026 (11.00 AM) onwards.

For queries, interested parties may contact the office of Additional Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation at ICOMC Tower at Satya Nagar, Infront of Satya Nagar Kali Temple on Janpath, Unit-IX, Bhubaneswar- 751022, Odisha, India.

1. Schedule of Events :

Period of availability of Tender Document in BMC website	From Dt. 01.06.2026 to Dt. 22.06.2026 (till 5:00 PM)
Pre-bid meeting (Physical & Virtual)	On Dt. 09.06.2026 (Time 12.30 PM) (4th floor Conference Hall of ICOMC Tower)
Last date and time of receiving queries to be sent to email id: **dc-sanitation@bmc.gov.in** and **swmpmu@gmail.com** (Format for sending queries attached in Annexure-X)	Dt. 10.06.2026 (by 5:00 PM)
Last date and time for submission of bids	22.06.2026 (till 5:00 PM)
Date and time for technical bid opening	23.06.2026 (11:00 AM)
Financial bid Opening	Will be Communicated by BMC
Address for submission of Bid	The Additional Commissioner, BMC Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, 4th Floor, BMC-ICOMC Building, Satya Nagar, Opposite Satya Nagar Kali Temple, Bhubaneswar- 751 022

2. All amendments, Clarifications, time extension etc. will be uploaded in the BMC website only interested parties should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.

By Order of Commissioner, BMC
Sd/-
Additional Commissioner
Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation
OIPR - 13001/13002/1/26-27/0038

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Gati Shakti Unit, Gwalior

E-Tender No.: DYCEGSUGWL1126 Date: 27.05.2026

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Deputy Chief Engineer (GSU), North Central Railway, Gwalior for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open online e-Tenders (Two packet System) for the following work:-

Description of work: Jhansi-Manikpur Section - Construction of ROB in lieu of Level Crossing No. 369 at KM 1131/1-2.

Approx. Cost: ₹ 98.84 Crore	**Date of closing Tender: 17.06.2026**

Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 18 Months

- Tender can be submitted online up to **11.00 hrs.** on **17.06.2026.**
- For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in**

1209/26 (A)

North central railways | @CPRONCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(A wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U40101KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

BESCOM invites tender vide No:**BESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT1108** through KPP Portal from eligible bidders for **"Establishment of EV charging station at Shasakara Bhavana on Total Turnkey Basis including one year warranty and four years AMC".**

Bid documents will be available from **03.06.2026 at 11:00AM Onwards.**

The Bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal(KPPP) website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP Portal. Further, bidders can take assistance with KPP Portal helpdesk at 9240214000, 9240214001.

Sd/- General Manager (Ele.) DSM& EV, BESCOM

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited
Karnataka One State, Many worlds — Department of Tourism
(A Government Undertaking)
CIN :U70100KA2015SGC081817
#54, 5th Floor, Indhana Bhavana, Racecourse Road, Opposite Renaissance Hotel, Bangalore-560001. Ph (080) 22352525, Email: eepmudot@gmail.com

Letter No: KTIL/CSS/CBDD5&6/BIDAR/2025-26 Date: 30.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The following tenders are published on the Electronic Procurement Platform (KPPP) for the development of tourism by the Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited. Schedule and tender documents related to tenders will be available on e-procurement platform **(https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**

Sl. No	Work Name	Indent No	Event Date Description
1.	Work to develop Bidar as a cultural and heritage tourist destination under the Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) sub-Scheme of the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme of the Union Ministry of Tourism (Package 5&6)	KTIL/ 2026-27/ SE0059, Dated:29.05.2026	1.Opening date for submitting bids :29.05.2026 2.Last date for submitting bids:29.06.2026

Tender details are available on e-procurement platform **(https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for download from **29.05.2026**. EMD amount and tender processing fee should be paid electronically at **(https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Interested organizations are required to register on the e-procurement platform to participate in the said tender.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer and Tender Inviting Authority,
Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited

DIPR/CP/904/NR/2026-27

कार्यालयः नगर निगम, गोरखपुर

पत्रांकः- 113/मु.अभि./चार-सा.नि.वि./2026-27 दिनांकः 29.05.2026

ई-निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम, गोरखपुर द्वारा नगर निगम के समस्त पंजीकृत/ पात्र ठेकेदारों/ अनुभवी फर्मों से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से मुख्यमंत्री ग्रीन रोड इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेन्ट स्कीम (अर्बन) फेज-2 के अन्तर्गत 02 कार्य की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। शासनादेश सं. 3890/नौ-5-149सा/2019, नगर विकास अनुभाग 05 उ.प्र. शासन लखनऊ, दिनांक 20.09.2019 के क्रम में उक्त निविदा में नगर निगम, गोरखपुर में अपंजीकृत ठेकेदारों भी प्रतिभाग कर सकते है। सर्वन्यून निविदादाता होने पर सम्बन्धित ठेकेदार को नगर निगम, गोरखपुर में पंजीकरण की अर्हता पूर्ण कराकर नगर निगम, गोरखपुर में पंजीकरण कराना होगा। पंजीकरण की अर्हता सम्बन्धी विवरण/ आवश्यक प्रपत्र की सूचना किसी भी कार्य दिवस में नगर निगम कार्यालय के निर्माण विभाग में देखी जा सकती है। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र उ.प्र. की ई-प्रक्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाईट http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है। शासनादेश सं. 4848/नौ-5-2018-470सा/2018 नगर विकास अनुभाग-5 उ.प्र. शासन, लखनऊ दिनांक 10 दिसम्बर, 2018 के क्रम में निविदा शुल्क + जी.एस.टी. एवं घरोहर धनराशि वेबसाईट http://etender.up.nic.in पर ही ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से जमा की जायेंगी। ई-निविदाएँ निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	नगर निगम	पैकेज सं.	अन्तर्निहित मार्ग	मार्ग की लम्बाई मी.में	अनुमानित लागत जी.एस.टी. रहित (रू. लाख में) निर्माण	5 सालों का अनुरक्षण	कार्य की सम्पूर्ण अनुमानित लागत (रू. लाख में)	निर्माण धरोहर धनराशि (रू. लाख में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह मे)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य जी.एस.टी. सहित (रू.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	गोरखपुर	GKP/CMG 24-25/Pkg-3	शास्त्री चौक से छात्रसंघ, अम्बेडकर चौक से ऐश्रा तिराहा, हरिओम नगर से टाउनहाल तक।	2370	2080.00	47.00	2127.00	42.54	15	35400.00

ऑनलाईन निविदा का विवरण

क्र.सं.	विवरण	दिनांक एवं समय
1	वेबसाईट से निविदा डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	30.05.2026
2	प्री-बिड मिटिंग	-
3	निविदा अपलोड करने का अंतिम तिथि	05.06.2026 @ 5:00 P.M.
4	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	06.06.2026 @ 11:00 A.M.

कार्यों का विवरण, नियम व शर्तें नगर निगम, गोरखपुर के वेबसाइट www.gorakhpurnagarnigam.up.gov.in गोरखपुर पर व ई-प्रक्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाईट http://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है साथ ही नगर निगम कार्यालय के नोटिस बोर्ड पर चस्पा कर दी गयी है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिये उक्त वेबसाईट एवं नोटिस बोर्ड पर देखी जा सकती है।

मुख्य अभियन्ता,
नगर निगम, गोरखपुर

कार्यालयः नगर निगम, गोरखपुर

पत्रांकः- 114/मु.अभि./चार-सा.नि.वि./2026-27 दिनांकः 29.05.2026

ई-निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम, गोरखपुर द्वारा नगर निगम के समस्त पंजीकृत/ पात्र ठेकेदारों/ अनुभवी फर्मों से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से मुख्यमंत्री ग्रीन रोड इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेन्ट स्कीम (अर्बन) फेज-2 के अन्तर्गत 02 कार्य की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। शासनादेश सं. 3890/नौ-5-149सा/2019, नगर विकास अनुभाग 05 उ.प्र. शासन लखनऊ, दिनांक 20.09.2019 के क्रम में उक्त निविदा में नगर निगम, गोरखपुर में अपंजीकृत ठेकेदारों भी प्रतिभाग कर सकते है। सर्वन्यून निविदादाता होने पर सम्बन्धित ठेकेदार को नगर निगम, गोरखपुर में पंजीकरण की अर्हता पूर्ण कराकर नगर निगम, गोरखपुर में पंजीकरण कराना होगा। पंजीकरण की अर्हता सम्बन्धी विवरण/ आवश्यक प्रपत्र की सूचना किसी भी कार्य दिवस में नगर निगम कार्यालय के निर्माण विभाग में देखी जा सकती है। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र उ.प्र. की ई-प्रक्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाईट http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है। शासनादेश सं. 4848/नौ-5-2018-470सा/2018 नगर विकास अनुभाग-5 उ.प्र. शासन, लखनऊ दिनांक 10 दिसम्बर, 2018 के क्रम में निविदा शुल्क + जी.एस.टी. एवं घरोहर धनराशि वेबसाईट http://etender.up.nic.in पर ही ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से जमा की जायेंगी। ई-निविदाएँ निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	नगर निगम	पैकेज सं.	अन्तर्निहित मार्ग	मार्ग की लम्बाई मी.में	अनुमानित लागत जी.एस.टी. रहित (रू. लाख में) निर्माण	5 सालों का अनुरक्षण	कार्य की सम्पूर्ण अनुमानित लागत (रू. लाख में)	निर्माण धरोहर धनराशि (रू. लाख में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह मे)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य जी.एस.टी. सहित (रू.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	गोरखपुर	GKP/CMG 24-25/Pkg-1	कचहरी चौराहा से काली मंदिर तक।	842	753.00	17.00	770.00	15.40	12	23600.00
2		GKP/CMG 24-25/Pkg-2	शिवाय होटल से गणेश चौराहा होते हुये अग्रसेन तिराहा विजय चौक तक।	1250	1209.00	27.00	1236.00	24.72	12	23600.00

ऑनलाईन निविदा का विवरण

क्र.सं.	विवरण	दिनांक एवं समय
1	वेबसाईट से निविदा डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	30.05.2026
2	प्री-बिड मिटिंग	-
3	निविदा अपलोड करने का अंतिम तिथि	05.06.2026 @ 5:00 P.M.
4	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	06.06.2026 @ 11:00 A.M.

कार्यों का विवरण, नियम व शर्तें नगर निगम, गोरखपुर के वेबसाइट www.gorakhpurnagarnigam.up.gov.in गोरखपुर पर व ई-प्रक्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाईट http://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है साथ ही नगर निगम कार्यालय के नोटिस बोर्ड पर चस्पा कर दी गयी है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिये उक्त वेबसाईट एवं नोटिस बोर्ड पर देखी जा सकती है।

मुख्य अभियन्ता,
नगर निगम, गोरखपुर

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Mangalagiri, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh - 522503

[Advt No. AIIMS/MG/Committee/PDCC/2026/ dtd. 29-05-2026]

Post Doctoral Certificate Courses (PDCC)
Admission Notice for the Session July-2026

AIIMS Mangalagiri invites applications for admission into Post Doctoral Certificate Courses (PDCC) for the session July-2026.

The candidates who wish to apply can submit duly filled and signed application form along with necessary documents to pa.deana@aiimsmangalagiri.edu.in

Important: For Prospectus, Detailed Admission Notice, Application form and other information, please visit the website www.aiimsmangalagiri.edu.in/admissioncategory/pdcc-admission

All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/ Addendum/ Updates will only be uploaded on the website.

Sd/-
Dean (Academic)
AIIMS, Mangalagiri

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, 3ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.ಡಿ. ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಆನಂದರಾವ್ ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು -560009.
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ : om.dcwd@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮಮಅಇ/ಟೆಮರ/ಟಾ.ವಾ/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.05.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಬಾಹ್ಯಮೂಲದ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಚಾಲಕರನ್ನೊಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು (ಕಾರು) ಪಡೆಯಲು ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷ ಅಥವಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ ತಿಳಿಸುವ ಮುಂದಿನ ಅವಧಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮದ ಅನ್ವಯ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.05.2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ 16.06.2026 (ಸಂಜೆ 05.00 ಗಂಟೆ) ರವರೆಗೆ** ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದ್ದು, **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ, 3ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.ಡಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಆನಂದ ರಾವ್ ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 009 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು. ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080-22353778 & 080-22374981.

ಸಹಿ/- ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ.

ಪ್ರಾಸಾಸಂಖ್ಯ/ಪ್ರಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/899/2026-27

Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Ltd.
(A Government of Karanataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer
KNNL W and M Division Naviluteertha-591116
TQ. Saundatti. Dist. Belagavi.
Dn e-mail: eewandmDivision@gmail.com

No. /PB/E.Tender/2026-27/ 168 Dated: 29/5/2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)

(Indent No . KNNL/2025-26/LI/WORK INDENT4047 & KNNL/2025-26/LI/WORK,,INDENT4046) (2ndCall)
(Through E-Portal system only)

Electronic percentage tender through e-procurement platform is invited by the Executive Engineer KNNL W and M Division Naviluteertha, on behalf of M.D, KNNL Bangalore for taking up the work Under Head of A/c 4701 Indent No-KNNL/2025-26/LI/WORK INDENT4047 & KNNL/2025-26/LI/WORK,,INDENT4046. The tenderers are required to apply in two cover system.

Amount put to Tender Rs. 16.37 Crores to Rs. 20.25 Crores, EMD Amount Rs. 0.17 Crores to 0.21 Crores, Calendar of events are as mentioned below

1. Date of receipt: 8/6/2026 Up to 4.00 Pm
2.Pre bid Meeting will be held at office of the Managing Director KNNL 4th floor Coffee Board building Bangalore on 4/6/2026.at 11.00 Am , 3. Cover-I (Technical bid) will be opened on: 9/6/2026 at 5.00 Pm 4. Cover-II (Financial bid) will be opened after technical bid approval.

Further information about Electronic tendering can be had from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and can also be had from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KNNL W and M Division Naviluteertha
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-344/KNMCA/2025-26

25001/272/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF
RURAL WORKS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
Letter No 19695, Dated. 27-05-2026 Email i.d.: crew_bbsr@yahoo.com

"e" Procurement Notice for road works in Odisha
(Online-01 (Roads) / 2026-27 dt. 27.05.2026)

1. Name of the work : Construction of Road work
2. Total No. of works : 01 (One) no
3. Estimated cost : Rs 2638.48 lakh
4. Class of contractor : "Super" Class & "Special" Class as applicable.
5. Period of completion : As mentioned in Column 7 of TCN.
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid identification No	No. of road works	Availability of tender online for bidding From	To
Chief Engineer, Roads, Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar	Online-01/2026-27 (Roads)	01 (One) no	08.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	30.06.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which will be available in website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Roads
Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-25001/25123/1/26-27/0006

32001/311/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
NORTHERN MINOR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, SAMBALPUR

e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NO- ACENMIC, SBP - 01/2026-27
Letter No- 797 Dated 29.05.2026

The Additional Chief Engineer, N.M.I Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate bids in Double cover only in ONLINE mode** for the Construction of works detailed in the table from **"B & A"** Class Contractors registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government /M.E.S/ Railways for execution of civil works on production of definite proof from the appropriate authority. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the following works.

1. Name of the works : Renovation to Hatianalla MIP in Laikera Block of Jharsuguda District under DPIW (Dam Protection and Improvement work) Scheme for the year 2026-27.
2. Total No. of works : **01** (One).
3. Estimated Cost : Rs. 215.00 lakh Approximately.
4. Class of Contractor : Class **"B & A"**
5. Period of completion : **Refer DTCN**
6. Date & time of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal for online bidding : **From 02.06.2026** at 10.00 A.M. to **11.06.2026** up to 5 PM.
7. Last date/Time for receipt of Bid only in ONLINE : **11.06.2026** up to 5 PM.
8. Date/Time of Opening of Technical Bid : **12.06.2026** at 11.00 AM. at Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, N.M.I, Circle, Sambalpur.
9. Date/Time of Opening of Financial Bid : **To be intimated through website after evaluation of Technical Bid.**
10. Date of Transparent Lottery (if cases arise) : **To be intimated through e-mail after evaluation of Financial Bid.**
11. Name & Address of the Officer Inviting the Bid : Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, N.M.I Circle, Sambalpur, AT-Brookshill, Po-BSS, Nagar, Dist-Sambalpur, Pin-768001 e-Mail ID: **senmiesbpr@yahoo.co.in**
12. Further details can be seen from the "e" Procurement Portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
N.M.I Circle, Sambalpur
OIPR-32001/32208/1/26-27/0001

10001/206/2627

NOTICE INVITING BID

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III
Bhubaneswar - 751 001
Tel. : (0674) 2380950, Website : https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in, Email : drugs-osmcl@od.gov.in

Bid Ref. No.: OSMCL/2026-27/DRUGS-DHS-ACD-GR-II/02 Date: 01.06.2026

Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for **Supply of Anti Cancer Items (Group-II) as per the particulars mentioned below:**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	01.06.2026, 3 PM	
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id - **drugs-osmcl@od.gov.in**	05.06.2026, up to 5.00 PM	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time: 08.06.2026, 3 PM	End Date & Time: 29.06.2026, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee and EMD amount as per section-IV of tender document	Start Date & Time: 30.06.2026, 10 AM	End Date & Time: 07.07.2026, 11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	07.07.2026, 11.30 AM	
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof. All notice will be published in the OSMCL website **https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in**. Hence the bidders are requested to visit OSMCL website **https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in** time to time for any published notice against the tender.

Sd/- **Managing Director**
OSMC Ltd., Odisha
OIPR-10001/10112/1/26-27/0002

25001/268/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA
Email ID-serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
Letter No. 2522 Date: 29/05/2026

1st Corrigendum to Bid identification No. Online Tender/ NCB-01 / RWCSBD / 2026-27, NCB - 02/ RWCSBD/2026-27, NCB - 03/ RWCSBD/ 2026-27

In partial modification to the above Bid Identification with reference to the Letter No. 18845, dtd. 21.05.2026 of the Chief Engineer (PMGSY), Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for Online receipt of the Tender Paper Cost & EMD in the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) for PMGSY Tenders, the Tender Paper Cost & EMD are to be transferred by the bidders through Online only for the works under PMGSY-IV as stated below:

SL No	Corrigendum for	Provision kept in TCN:	Now modified with:
1.	Tender Paper Cost & EMD as per Sl. No. 3&5 of TCN	The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in shape of Fixed Deposit Receipt Term Deposit Receipt pledged in favour of **concerned R.W. Superintending Engineer / Executive Engineer** and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished **with bid document as per provision of Clause 4.4B (a) (ii) of ITB with Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda // Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division, Koraput, Jeypore, Sunabeda, Malkangiri-I&II, Nabarangpur-I&II on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand (11.06.2026 upto 12.00 Noon).**	**1. Tender Paper Cost: The bidder shall transfer the Tender Paper Cost @ Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) per set (Non-refundable) through Online only as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN for tender cost more than 50.00 lakhs & Bidder shall transfer the Tender Paper Cost @ Rs. 6,000/- (Rupees Six Thousand Only) per set (Non-refundable) through Online only for tender cost below 50.00 lakhs** **2. EMD: The bidder shall transfer the EMD through Online only @ 2% of the amount as specified for the work in the table Col No. 10 in the Annexure of NIT.** **3.Online Tendering Process**: The entire tendering process shall be completed through **Online mode** with no Offline submission of Tender Paper Cost & EMD.
2.	Date of availability of tender	16.05.2026 to 05.06.2026 upto 5.30 PM.	**4. 17.06.2026 upto 5.30 PM**
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid.	16.06.2026 at 12.00 Noon	**5. 18.06.2026 at 12.00 Noon**

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
RW Circle, Sunabeda
OIPR-25001/25182/1/26-27/0025

Disabled another ship trying to defy blockade to reach Iran: US

Deal Remains Elusive; US Warns It's Capable Of Resuming War

Washington: The US military has stopped another merchant vessel trying to break through the American blockade of Iranian ports, a US official with knowledge of the situation told AP on Saturday.

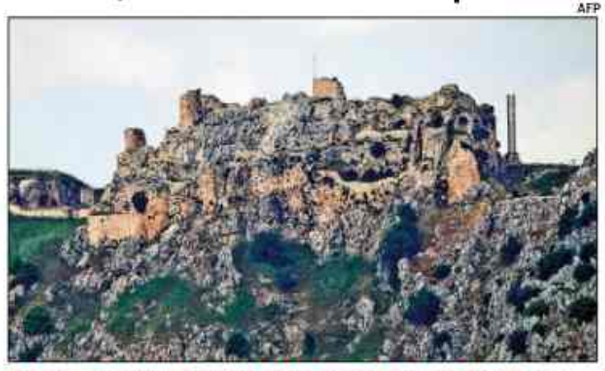
The Gambia-flagged bulk carrier Lian Star ignored multiple warnings from US forces overnight as it tried to enter an Iranian port, the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said. The ship was disabled by US aircraft in the Gulf of Oman and remains adrift there. The US forces have not boarded it, the official said.

The US launched the blockade on April 17 in response to Iran effectively closing the strait of Hormuz.

The United States warned on Saturday it was "more than capable" of resuming war with Iran after President Donald Trump said any peace deal must adhere to his red lines, including Tehran never being able to develop nuclear weapons. The White House had signalled Trump was close to a decision on a potential deal, though Tehran denied there was a final agreement on ending the conflict. US sources had told AFP the deal was waiting on Trump's sign-off, but he made no decision after a White House Situation Room meeting on Friday.

Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth, while attending a defence summit in Singapore, said on Saturday that Washington was "more than capable" of restarting the war.

AFP



ISRAEL LAUNCHES STRIKES NEAR ANCIENT CASTLE SITE: The Crusader-era Beaufort (Belfort) Castle, known locally as Qalaat al-Chakif or Shaqif Arnun, in southern Lebanon. Israeli air force and artillery strikes were reported on Saturday near the strategic mountain site of the castle as fighting raged in villages close to the city of Nabatiyeh. Beaufort castle is about 15km from the Israeli border and overlooks wide parts of southern Lebanon. It was held by Israeli troops for 18 years until they withdrew from Lebanon in May 2000

US bans Iranian buyers of military technology

The US announced Friday that it is "dismantling a sophisticated Iranian network" used to obtain sensitive military technology. The network "impersonated and defrauded" dozens of American technology companies out of millions of dollars to "acquire advanced equipment —including spectrum analyzers and security detection devices — for Iran's defence sector," the US state department said in a statement.

It did not name the technology companies who were lured into doing business through fake websites that "mimicked real American companies, using intermediaries in Dubai to receive shipments, and then smuggling the technology into Iran in violation of US sanctions." The network was led by Iran-based Ali Majd Sepehr, the state department spokesman said.

Qatar OK with temporary Hormuz fee to clear mines

Qatar opposes permanent legal fees for transit through the Strait of Hormuz, but a temporary fee is negotiable and could help restore normal passage through the key waterway, a top official said.

A permanent fee would impact consumers and Qatar objects to any such move, deputy PM Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said at a defence conference in Singapore. A short-term fee for mine clearing or similar purposes can be considered, he said.

The comments were in response to a question about talks between Iran and Oman to impose a permanent toll system to formalise control of traffic through Hormuz, one of the world's key trade routes. Iran has effectively closed the waterway in response to US-Israeli airstrikes that began late Feb. AP, AFP, BLOOMBERG

SpaceX wins $4bn contract for US Golden Dome satellites

SpaceX has won a contract for over $4 billion to build satellites to track foreign aircraft and missiles as part of President Trump's Golden Dome defensive shield.

The space-based tracking network integrates space sensors, communication systems and AI-enabled ground processing to look and alert for airborne threats from orbit, according to a US Space Force statement Friday.

The US had been using ground-based sensors and military aircraft to monitor the skies, but placing detection capabilities in space could eliminate potential blind spots. The $4.16 billion award underscores SpaceX's close involvement with Golden Dome, which is intended to protect the US from attacks through layered defence systems ranging from Earth to space.

SpaceX is already under contract to develop prototypes of space-based interceptors for the project and is part of a multi-company software consortium building the operating layer underpinning Golden Dome. It is also working with the US Space Force to develop a military communications network using the company's Starshield platform, a version of Starlink offering a classified and encrypted signal. BLOOMBERG

US def secy tones down warnings about China

Singapore: US defense secretary Pete Hegseth assured Pacific allies on Saturday that Washington remained committed to the region, but toned down previous comments calling China a threat.

Speaking to a group of world leaders, diplomats and top security officials at the Shangri-La defence conference in Singapore, Hegseth said the region "has profound implications for US security and prosperity" and that Washington's priority was to "achieve a lasting and favourable balance of power in the Pacific."

It was his second time addressing the forum, hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Last year, he warned that China was building up its military forces to take Taiwan, it's "actively training for it, every day."

This year, however, the meeting comes only about two weeks after US President Donald Trump visited Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing, following which Trump called Xi a "great leader" and said they were going to have a "fantastic future together."

Hegseth, who was with Trump in Beijing, said the two leaders had agreed that China and the US should "build a constructive relationship of strategic stability, based on fairness and reciprocity, reaffirming that while our nations will vigorously protect our respective interests, we can secure practical, mutually beneficial agreements where our interests align."

Reuters

Australian defence minister Richard Marles and British def secretary John Healey look on as US secretary of def Pete Hegseth speaks during an AUKUS defence ministers' press huddle at the US Embassy in Singapore, on Saturday

However, he said it was still an American priority to ensure that China is not allowed to dominate the Indo-Pacific. "There is rightful alarm regarding China's historic military buildup and the expansion of its military activities in the region and beyond," he said.

"We share a clear-eyed assessment of that security environment and a mutual understanding that a Pacific dominated by any hegemon would unravel the regional balance of power and undermine the equilibrium we all seek to preserve."

Later in the day, Chinese Major General Meng Xiangqing praised Hegseth's remarks about the meeting between Xi and Trump. AP

Raise defence spending or else, Hegseth warns Nato, Europe

US defense secretary Pete Hegseth took another swipe at Washington's Nato and European partners on Saturday, saying those that do not hike defence spending sufficiently "will face a clear shift in how we do business".

Nato members pledged last year to ramp up defence-related spending to 5% of GDP but, despite increased efforts, many states say they may not be able to reach that target.

"For too long, polite pleas from our European allies to spend more on their own defence fell on deaf ears," the Pentagon chief said at a defence summit in Singapore.

In Asia, Hegseth reiterated that the region's security had "rested disproportionately on American military power, while many of our allies and partners allowed their own defence capabilities to atrophy".

Many countries in the Asia-Pacific region were indeed stepping up, Hegseth said, using South Korea as a particular example.

Hegseth also praised the spending policies of other countries including Australia, the Philippines and Japan. "You don't have a strong alliance unless everyone has skin in the game. No freeloading," Hegseth said. AFP

Doc says Trump has heart of someone 14 years younger

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: White House released late Friday a three-page medical memo declaring that President Donald Trump, who turns 80 on June 14 and is oldest ever sworn into Oval Office, possesses "excellent" cognitive and physical performance and is fully fit to continue as commander-in-chief.

Timing of release, shortly before 11pm Friday, ensured US political class was already halfway through drinks, dinner or doom-scrolling before nation learned its president apparently enjoys biological vitality of a much younger man.

Headline-grabber was assessment that Trump's cardiovascular system resembles that of someone 14 years younger than his chronological age, a claim instantly embraced by supporters and met with raised eyebrows by critics who have spent months circulating close-up photographs of swollen ankles, bruised hands and an occasionally unsteady gait.

According to Trump's physician Navy Capt Sean Barbabella, president underwent extensive testing at Walter Reed Medical Center, including cardiac, pulmonary, neurological and cognitive examinations, lab work and consultations with 22 specialists from multiple academic institutions. Verdict was emphatic: normal cardiac function, normal mental status, no signs of depression or anxiety, and overall physical health robust enough to withstand demands of his job.

Reuters

US President Donald Trump departs the White House for Trump National Golf Club in Virginia, Saturday

Yet buried among glowing reviews was language more familiar to ordinary mortals. Report noted "slight lower leg swelling", albeit improved from last year. It confirmed continuing bruising on back of Trump's hands, attributing it to frequent handshaking combined with aspirin use. President also takes cholesterol-lowering rosuvastatin and ezetimibe and has been advised to increase physical activity, lose weight and improve diet.

Recommendations prompted immediate questions: If patient is already a marvel of presidential physiology, why is he being instructed to exercise more and eat better? Trump currently weighs 238 pounds (about 108kg), up 14 pounds from his 2025 exam.

Critics, though, point to ankle swelling, periodic hand discolouration, heavily publicised diagnosis of chronic venous insufficiency, episodes in which Trump appears drowsy at public events, and recent photographs showing makeup covering bruises. Some commentators have gone further, speculating about sleep disorders, cognitive decline or other undisclosed conditions. Those allegations remain largely speculative, with medical report finding no neurological abnormalities and specifically stating Trump demonstrated normal mental status and excellent cognitive performance.

Cognitive testing itself has become a recurring Trump obsession. For years, he has proudly recounted passing screening exams such as Montreal Cognitive Assessment, often describing them as if he had conquered a doctoral exam rather than a test designed to detect cognitive impairment.

Trump's risible retelling typically features his celebrated ability to remember a sequence of words and identify common animals. In MAGA folklore, president's successful identification of a duck may soon rank alongside moon landing and defeat of Soviet Union. Medical experts note test is a screening tool, not an IQ examination; passing it is reassuring, but hardly proof of superhuman intellect.

Trump suffers twin court setbacks over Kennedy Center renaming, IRS deal

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US President Donald Trump suffered a pair of legal setbacks Friday, adding to a growing list of court rulings that have frustrated his efforts to reshape federal institutions and advance his MAGA agenda. Rulings came while he faces diplomatic stalemate over Iran.

In Washington, US district judge Christopher Cooper ordered that Trump's name be removed from facade, branding and official materials of Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in two weeks. Judge also blocked plans to close the iconic institution for a two-year renovation project beginning this summer, ruling that Congress alone has authority to do so. It was an embarrassing rebuke to Trump's bid to force a personal imprint on a storied landmark.

Hours later in Miami, US district judge Kathleen Williams reopened Trump's $10 billion lawsuit against Internal Revenue Service despite president having voluntarily withdrawn case after reaching a sketchy settlement with justice department, saying she wanted to investigate "grievous allegations" that the agreement was "premised on deception" and potentially constituted a fraud on court.

Case arose from leak of Trump's tax records by a former IRS contractor. It was settled earlier this month through an unusual agreement establishing a $1.776 billion "anti-weaponization" fund for MAGA faithful claiming they had been targeted by politically motivated govt actions.

Settlement drew criticism from legal experts who questioned both its legality and manner in which it was negotiated. Trump reacted furiously on Truth Social, reviving a familiar complaint that adverse rulings are being issued by what he calls "Obama judges".

At summit, AI dangers dwarf nuclear concerns

The dangers of AI eclipsed those of nuclear weapons at a defence forum discussion on strategic stability in Singapore, as panelists warned it could reduce reaction times to the point where people make rash decisions.

Collapsing the so-called "OODA loop" — an acronym for observe, orient, decide and act — creates a sort of fog in which "a human can't evaluate the situation fast enough," said Lieutenant General Nauman Zakria, Commander of 1 Corps and Army Rocket Force Command of the Pakistan army. "People will act irrationally, and the actions will be extreme," he said Saturday during a discussion at the Shangri-La Dialogue.

Those concerns were echoed by the only panelist not directly involved in defence and security, Mirjana Spoljaric, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross. She warned that although technology had the capacity to improve lives, it also vastly increased the danger of war.

"We don't know where the trigger is pulled," Spoljaric said. "It could be thousands of kilometres away. So while there are potentials of AI for protecting civilians, what we see at the moment is only the negative side."

Nuclear weapons, the classic example of a strategic deterrent, still featured heavily in the conversation. People's Liberation Army Major General Meng Xiangqing reaffirmed China's no-first-use policy and added that if more countries adopted that position, the world would be a safer place. "If we can do so, we can reduce the risk and we can further enhance strategic stability," he said.

The conversation repeatedly circled back to artificial intelligence. General Onno Eichelsheim, the Netherlands' chief of defence, noted that such technology had already appeared on the battlefield as Ukrainians used it to anticipate Russian attacks. The US has also said it deployed AI in planning Iranian strikes.

"AI is a huge risk in escalation. I think that's clear," Eichelsheim said. "But I'm not naive. It'll be used in the domain. It is already being used." BLOOMBERG

Aukus decides to develop unmanned undersea vehicles

Singapore: The United States, Britain and Australia are working together to develop unmanned undersea vehicles as part of their trilateral Aukus defence pact, US secretary of defence Pete Hegseth told reporters on Saturday.

Aukus said in a joint statement that delivery of the vehicles will start in 2027.

The programme will improve the three nations' reconnaissance and strike capabilities, "and bolster superiority in anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, mine countermeasures, electronic warfare, and contested littoral manoeuvre," the statement said.

The programme comes under Aukus's so-called "Pillar Two" to develop advanced defence technology including quantum computing, undersea, hypersonic, artificial intelligence and cyber technology.

"The signature project will deliver a suite of highly adaptable multi-mission UUV payloads designed to support undersea operations and maintain our collective advantage in the maritime domain," Hegseth said. REUTERS

China expels NYT reporter over interview with Taiwan president

China has expelled a New York Times journalist from the country over an interview the US-based newspaper conducted with Taiwan's president, as Beijing ramps up its campaign to isolate the self-ruled island on the world stage.

Reporter Vivian Wang was ordered to leave China in Feb, the NYT reported, calling it the latest example of Beijing's growing pressure on foreign correspondents. Chinese officials said the decision was a response to an NYT interview of Lai Ching-te in Dec that was conducted by Andrew Ross Sorkin, according to the newspaper.

Wang, who has worked in Beijing for the newspaper since 2022, wasn't involved in that coverage. Lai's interview was conducted via video link at an NYT summit in New York. The Trump administration revoked the visa of a US-based Chinese state media journalist in retaliation, said the NYT, adding it didn't request the tit-for-tat move.

Chinese officials had been complaining about Wang's coverage for months, according to the NYT, which highlighted her reporting on sensitive matters such as censorship, Beijing's handling of the Covid pandemic and expansion of state surveillance. The episode appears to show Beijing is drawing a new red line in its bid to silence Lai, whom it has branded a "separatist" and troublemaker.

China's foreign ministry didn't reply to a request for comment made outside working hours. The US state department also didn't immediately reply to a request for comment. BLOOMBERG

Marcia Lucas, Oscar-winning 'Star Wars' editor, dies at 80

Los Angeles: Marcia Lucas, who won an Oscar as editor of the original 1977 "Star Wars" and was part of a group of women whose editing was essential to film's New Hollywood era, has died, a lawyer for her family said Friday. She was 80.

Lucas, who was married to "Star Wars" creator George Lucas from 1969 to 1983, died Wednesday from metastatic cancer. She died in Rancho Mirage, California, surrounded by loved ones.

Marcia Lucas was the editor on 1983's "Return of the Jedi" and the pre-"Star Wars" George Lucas-directed films "THX 1138" and "American Graffiti." She was also part of the editing team for director Martin Scorsese's 1970s films "Taxi Driver," "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore" and "New York, New York."

Editor was a rare senior creative position where a woman could find a foothold in Hollywood. **Marcia Lucas** became one of several women whose work in the editing chair made sense of the work of the overwhelmingly male directors of the New Hollywood of the late 1960s through the early 1980s, including Dede Allen, editor of "Bonnie and Clyde" and "Dog Day Afternoon"; Verna Fields, editor of "Paper Moon" and "Jaws"; and Thelma Schoonmaker, editor of most of Scorsese's films starting with 1980's "Raging Bull."

Lucas was often called the unsung hero of "Star Wars," the original film that after sequels, prequels and spinoffs has come to be known by its subtitle, "A New Hope." She convinced her then-husband that he should have Obi-Wan Kenobi, played by Alec Guinness, die in his lightsaber battle with Darth Vader and become a spirit guide to Mark Hamill's Luke Skywalker.

And she had to make sense of raw footage that could have been a mess in the wrong hands, including the climactic rebel attack on the Death Star. "It was extremely complex and we had 40,000 feet of dialogue footage of pilots saying this and that. And she had to cull through all that, and put in all the fighting as well," George Lucas told Rolling Stone in an interview a few months after the film came out. "Nobody really has ever tried to interweave an actual plot story into a dogfight, and we were trying to do that."

Lucas was born Marcia Griffin in Modesto, California shortly after the end of World War II. She moved to Los Angeles with her mother after her parents divorced when she was a small child. AP

Social media cos to pay $27m to settle 'teen mental health crisis suit' by US school dist

The world's biggest social media platforms agreed to pay about $27 million to settle a lawsuit filed by a rural Kentucky school district that alleged their products are addictive and helped create a teen mental health crisis that drained school resources.

Meta Platforms, which owns Instagram and Facebook, is paying the school district $9 million, more than any of the other companies, according to documents released under the state's open records laws. Snap and TikTok each agreed to pay $8 million, the records show. Google's YouTube negotiated a payout of slightly more than $2 million, and was the only company that also agreed to provide the district with training programmes to help teachers better use its video product in classrooms.

Their reprieve, however, will be short-lived: more than 1,300 other school districts have filed similar lawsuits and are awaiting trial. The next is scheduled for Feb 2027

The one-time payments add up to 8% more than Breathitt County School District's $25 million annual budget. The settlements, announced earlier this month but without financial details, allowed the companies to avert the first trial in the nation over a school district's complaint, which was scheduled for June 12 in a court in Oakland, California. BLOOMBERG

WORLD DIGEST

AP

AUSTRIAN PROTEST SHUTS KEY EUROPEAN HIGHWAY: A protest in Austria on Saturday against noise and pollution blocked Brenner Pass, one of Europe's most important highways connecting Germany and Italy, but early reports showed traffic disruptions were not as bad as feared. The Brenner Pass links northern and southern Europe, with the Austrian stretch providing trans-Alpine access into Italy. Communities in Austria's western Tyrol province have long complained about traffic, especially trucks passing over the Brenner Pass and through the province

Dead whale Timmy's autopsy set for next week

The carcass of a humpback whale, whose life and death captivated Germans for months as the mammal became repeatedly stranded in the Baltic Sea, was dragged Saturday onto a Danish beach after two weeks of the body languishing in shallow waters. The whale had gained the nicknames "Timmy" and "Hope" as German media outlets sent push alerts and updated live blogs with the status of its health since it was first spotted off the German coast on March 3. The whale was found dead on May 14, stranded just off the small island of Anholt in the broad strait between Denmark and Sweden that connects the Baltic Sea to the North Sea. Its death ended months of a spectacular and contentious rescue effort that culminated May 2, when the mammal was transported toward the North Sea in a barge in a final effort to guide it back to its natural habitat in the Atlantic Ocean.

Rescuers pull four from flooded cave in Laos

Rescuers pulled four people from a flooded cave in Laos on Saturday, Thai volunteer rescuers said, hours after another man was brought out late on Friday. The five are among seven Lao nationals who had entered the cave in Xaisomboun to look for gold, but were trapped for over a week when rising water blocked their exit. Two are missing.

3 Latvian climbers die in fall from Mount McKinley

Three Latvian climbers fell to their deaths on Mount McKinley in Alaska's Denali National Park and Preserve, while a fourth team member survived and was rescued, a climbing organisation from their home country said on Friday.

Amid Ebola, experts warn of link to eating wild animals

Kinshasa, Congo: The vendors of wild meat at the sprawling Masina Market in the Congolese capital don't always display their goods openly. Customers must ask for whatever they're looking for, whether it is a giant swamp rodent or the severed parts of an antelope. Others occasionally sell in the open, like the women who preside over impossibly large baskets of squirming caterpillars at the market in Kinshasa.

For many in Congo and elsewhere in Central and West Africa wild meat is a craving and a key part of the cultural milieux. Even a disease as punishing as Ebola has not diminished the demand for wild meat from the Congo Basin, an expansive forested ecosystem sometimes called Earth's second lung.

Reuters

WHO chief Tedros Ghebreyesus (R) arrives in Congo's Bunia, city at the heart of Ebola outbreak, on Saturday to coordinate the response to the health crisis

The Congo Basin is rich in all kinds of wildlife, from great apes to serpents — both of which are hunted for their meat. One consequence for locals is exposure to zoonotic diseases such as Ebola.

Although Ebola is generally not spread by food, cases in Africa have been associated with hunting, butchering and processing meat from infected animals. "Once there is human, animal and environment interface, we have these kinds of outbreaks on a frequent level," said Dr Tolbert Gewleh Nyenswah of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Congolese govt has confirmed more than 1,000 suspected cases, with at least 220 deaths, since it declared an outbreak of Ebola on May 15. Ebola, named for a tributary of the Congo River, was first discovered in 1976 in simultaneous outbreaks in Congo and present-day South Sudan. Outbreaks are believed to start with the virus spilling over into humans from an infected animal such as a fruit bat. These cross-species infections often happen when people handle and eat wild meat, experts say.

But since Ebola outbreaks happen only sporadically in communities that regularly eat wild meat, some people "don't believe the linkage" and others are "totally ignorant" of the health threat from eating wild meat, said Dr Misaki Wayengera, a microbiologist who advises Uganda's ministry of health on epidemics. AP

PSG KEEP THEIR PRIZE

Arsenal Bottle It In Shootout, Blow Early Lead

Getty Images

ONCE MORE... Marquinhos (centre) and PSG mates with the CL trophy

ARSENAL K. Havertz 5'	1
PSG O. Dembélé 64' (P)	1

PENALTIES

PSG	⚽	⚽	X	⚽	⚽	4
ARS	⚽	X	⚽	⚽	X	3

Budapest: Paris St. Germain retained their Champions League title with a penalty shootout victory over Arsenal after a 1-1 draw in a cagey final in the Puskas Arena on Saturday. Arsenal's Gabriel blazed his penalty over the crossbar to give PSG a 4-3 victory on spot kicks.

Eberechi Eze and Gabriel Magalhaes both missed for the Gunners in the shootout as PSG became just the second club to retain the title in the Champions League era.

The French champions made the worst possible start after Kai Havertz fired Arsenal into the lead in the sixth minute, lashing a rising shot past PSG goalkeeper Matvey Safonov. It looked like PSG would find no way through the meanest defence in Europe but Ousmane Dembele levelled from the penalty spot in the 65th minute after a foul by Cristhian Mosquera on Khvicha Kvaratskhelia.

A scrappy period of extra time could not separate the sides but PSG held their nerve in the shootout to become the second club in the Champions League era to win the trophy in successive seasons.

Arsenal were bidding to become European champions for the first time on their return to the final after a 20-year wait. Both teams were coming off winning their own domestic leagues, in France and England, respectively.

Incidentally, this is the eighth time a shootout has been needed to settle the title match since the European Cup was rebranded as the Champions League in 1992. The last one was in 2016, when Cristiano Ronaldo converted the decisive kick for Real Madrid and flexed his muscles after removing his jersey.

Earlier, the title match in European football's biggest club competition stayed at 1-1 after regulation time and an extra 30 minutes of play. The last time there was extra time in the Champions League final, Real Madrid had drawn 1-1 with Atletico Madrid in 2016. Real Madrid went on to win on penalties.

Arsenal had done a very good job of keeping PSG's wide players quiet. Désiré Doué, the star of last year's final, had been ineffective, so was Khvicha Kvaratskhelia. PSG had lots of possession, but kept coming up against a red wall with so little space around the box. PSG's players looked unusually nervous on the ball, perhaps a little too afraid to get caught on the break again after falling behind early in the first half.

This final was going just how Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta might have dreamed. There was an element of fortune about Havertz's goal. PSG had one shot on goal, a speculative long-range effort in the final minute of the half. The defending champions needed to improve drastically, since past the half-hour point in the final, they still hadn't had a shot on target. The French champions though, had more than 70% possession.

Incidentally, the coaches — PSG's Luis Enrique and Arsenal's Mikel Arteta — are both Spanish. They go way back. They were together at Barcelona in the late 1990s and early 2000s when Arteta was starting his career and Enrique was nearing the end of his. AGENCIES

Djokovic Departs Wondering Whether He Has Played His Last At The French Open

MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS

IANS

TIME & TIDE... Djokovic reacts while playing Joao Fonseca

THE TIMES OF INDIA AT ROLAND GARROS

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Paris: Novak Djokovic shut down three questions during Friday evening's post-match press conference at Roland Garros. The answers were brief, but revealing in what they refused to say. Will we see you back at Roland Garros next year? Djokovic: "I don't know." Would it be okay if that was your last match? "I don't know." With Carlos sidelined and Jannik losing, did your mind begin to think about the rest? "I don't care. I'll stop you right there."

The 24-time Grand Slam champion had little appetite for the questions. They were direct and uncomfortable, much like the challenge he had faced on court in the French Open third round against 19-year-old Joao Fonseca. For long stretches, Djokovic appeared in control, leading by two sets and later holding a 3-1 advantage in the deciding fifth set. Even deep in the match, in the fourth set, he seemed poised to regain command, 4-3 and holding two break points at 15-40.

Two of those questions he had answered patiently 12 months ago after his French Open semifinal loss to Jannik Sinner. He talked about the demands of the surface and how, at this stage in his career, it perhaps asked for more than he could give. But on Friday night, after being edged out by the teenager, Djokovic was in no mood to revisit them.

This is just the second time he has lost a match from two sets up. His only previous defeat was in the 2010 Roland Garros quarterfinals, when he lost to Jurgen Melzer. In the fifth hour of a Grand Slam match, body and mind are rarely separate forces. As Djokovic's legs grew heavier, the certainty that had underpinned his tennis began to disappear. For all the questions about the durability of a 39-year-old body, Friday's defeat to Fonseca felt like a match lost in the mind as much as the muscles. That was the wound Djokovic carried into his post-match press conference. Fonseca, who had 11 aces in the match, five of them in the fifth set, said, "When I won the fourth set, I was already tired. The fifth set was all heart. I couldn't even think. I was just trying to go."

Both men were tired. Even so, only one of them was 39. Djokovic, playing only his fourth tournament of the year, said, "Considering I was injured for three months and trying to come back, going pretty much straight into a Grand Slam on this surface that is very demanding and, for me, takes more time to find my groove. "When I look back at the important moments, could I have done something different? You know, you can always say, yes, but you just have to say, well done to him."

49 Djokovic's loss to Joao Fonseca was his 49th five-set match at a Grand Slam event, equalling the Open era record for playing most five-setters with Stan Wawrinka (49).

1 Following Novak Djokovic's elimination, this is the first time in the Open era that no former Grand Slam champion has made it to the men's singles R16 at a Grand Slam event.

Gold-sequinned Osaka survives three-setter, to face Sabalenka next

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Paris: Naomi Osaka's tennis dress — embellished with gold sequence — has grabbed more headlines than her tennis at the French Open. On Saturday, the four-time major winner's play echoed the sparkle of her costume, as she powered into the fourth round at Roland Garros for the first time.

Osaka, whose four major titles have come on hardcourts in Melbourne and New York, has been in the third round here thrice previously. This time, up against the 18-year-old American Iva Jovic, she scored a 7-6 (5), 6-7 (3), 6-4 win to set up a blockbuster last-16 showdown against the world No.1 Aryna Sabalenka, who saw off Daria Kasatkina's late charge 6-0, 7-5.

"I'm just a lot calmer now. I accept that it's a process," Osaka said.

Satwik, Chirag stun world champs, reach final

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BAI

BACK IN RHYTHM: Satwik and Chirag celebrate the win in Singapore on Saturday

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stunned world champions and top seeds Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae of South Korea 21-19, 21-18 in the semifinals of the Singapore Open BWF Super 750 tournament on Saturday.

The former world No. 1 Indian pair is now just one step away from ending a two-year title drought, having last won the Thailand Open in May 2024. But it was curtains for the mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto, who lost to Japan's Yuichi Shimogami and Sayaka Hobara 16-21, 21-17, 13-21 in the last-four stage.

SINGAPORE OPEN

Speaking after the victory, Chirag said, "We're happy with the way we played. Even when we were down, we kept backing each other. We knew if we stuck around, they would crack at some point. If we stick to our plan, points will come. That's the plan, we had that belief and it worked well for us."

"We wanted to keep pushing into the net, see what they do, and it worked," Satwik said.

LIVERPOOL SACK SLOT AFTER TITLE DEFENCE TURNS INTO EUROPEAN SCRAMBLE

London: Liverpool parted ways with Arne Slot on Saturday after the Dutch manager who won the Premier League title in his first season failed to live up to expectations in a roller-coaster second season in which they finished fifth. Former Feyenoord boss Slot replaced Juergen Klopp in 2024 and the Dutchman impressed in his first season as Liverpool won the Premier League title on the back of Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah's 29 goals and 18 assists in the league.

However, his second season at Liverpool transformed from a title defence into a desperate scramble for Champions League qualification while they failed to win a domestic cup, marking a dramatic downturn for the defending champions. Liverpool ended the season in fifth place with 60 points, their lowest tally since the 2015-16 campaign and 25 points behind Arsenal, and the club said they were forced to make the "difficult decision". REUTERS

Manu-Samrat duo takes mixed silver

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Pune: The Indian pair of Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker and world champion Samrat Rana took silver after a rollercoaster final in the 10m air pistol mixed event at the ISSF World Cup in Munich on Saturday. The duo scored 483.6 to take the second spot in the four-team final. The Chinese pair of Qianun Yao and Kai Hu won the gold with 483.9 while the bronze too was won by China's Yiyao Shen and Shuaihang Bu, who scored 418.

Manu and Samrat, who were third after the first series of five shots each, moved up to second, courtesy of Manu's high 10s in the next series of five shots. Manu and Samrat continued hitting 10s in the third series and maintained the second position.

Earlier, Suruchi Singh and Sharvan Kumar failed to make it to top-four after finishing 10th in the 42-team qualifier.

SNAP SHOTS

Nikhil wins Asian U-20 gold

Nikhil Chandrashekar clocked a personal best time of 9:25.44 seconds to win India the gold in men's 3000m steeplechase at the Asian U-20 meet in Hong Kong on Saturday. Bengaluru's Nikhil beat Japan's Yuu Kato (9:27.3s) who won the silver. Filipino Jerico Cadag (9:35.1) settled for the bronze. Basant (high jump) and Shahnavaz Khan (long jump) also won and took India's gold ally to seven.

Gulveer dips under 4 minutes: Gulveer Singh became the first Indian to run a mile race in less than four minutes enroute to winning the title at the Music City Track Carnival in Cleaveland, USA. The 27-year-old clocked 3:55.63 seconds to win the men's 1 Mile Pro event on Saturday.

Salah heads Egypt WC squad: Mohamed Salah, Liverpool's talismanic winger, will head Egypt's final squad for the 2026 World Cup in North America next month, coach Hossam Hassan said on Saturday. The squad lineup featured few surprises, except for the inclusion of rising striker Hamza Abdel Karim.

Avani jumps into top-10: Avani Prasanth jumped into the top-10 with a second-round card of three-under 68 after a slow start to the week in Evian-les-Bains, France. She is now tied ninth at two-under par. Diksha Dagar remained the best-placed Indian tied sixth with a three-under overall. Pranavi Urs (75-73) and Hitaashee Bakshi (79-78), missed the cut.

Missed cut: Yuvraj Sandhu (Kitzbuhel, Austria).

India pip Malaysia: Fifteen-year-old Nousheen Naz struck twice as India made a winning start, beating Malaysia 2-1 in a Pool A game of the U-18 women's Asia Cup hockey championship in Kakamigahara, Japan, on Saturday.

Aus down India: The Indian women's hockey team lost 2-3 against hosts Australia to share the four-match friendly series 2-2 in Perth on Saturday. **Result:** Australia 3 (Abby Wilson 42, Olivia Downes 44, Courtney Schonell 58) bt India 2 (Navneet Kaur 2, Deepika Soreng 23).

Mani shines: Mani Gowda scored four goals as Hindu Socials FC claimed a 5-3 win over Goans FC in the BDFA 'C' division football league in Bengaluru on Saturday. **Results:** Rovers FC 2 (Vishruth10, Puneeth 30+1) bt Oriental FC 0; Netaji FC 3 (Sanjeet Shandilya 11, Dipak Kunwar 41, Joshua Philips-60+1) bt JP Sports 0; Konkan FC 1 (Md Naeemuddin 60+2) bt Nationals FC 0; Hindu Socials 5 (Mani Gowda 3, 30+1, 49, 50, Rajesh S 28) bt Goans FC 3 (Nithesh Kumar 11, Arun Kavimani 35, Manish J 29); East West 7 (Michael R 2, 50, Sureen S 5, 13, Sreekanth S 17, Arun 43, Andru Surya S 49) bt NP Kempe Gowda FC 2 (Sarosh Paul Sha 24, 59).

Vinesh had to wait four hours before the bout

▶ Continued From Page 1

Competing for the first time since her heartbreaking disqualification at the Paris Olympics, a subsequent retirement announcement and later return to the sport following motherhood, the 31-year-old arrived at the Asian Games selection trials carrying far more than competitive ambitions. Vinesh was attempting to script one of Indian wrestling's most remarkable comebacks, chasing a place in the squad for the Aichi-Nagoya Games later this year.

The drama for her, though, began long before she stepped onto the mat.

WRESTLING TRIALS

In the morning, Vinesh was informed during the official weigh-in that she would only be permitted to compete in the 50kg category, the weight class in which she had competed at her last three international events, including Paris. Following a heated exchange with WFI officials and president Singh, the federation reversed its position.

The first hurdle cleared, she then endured a wait of nearly four hours before finally stepping onto the mat.

Vinesh opened her campaign against Jyothi, leading 1-0 before being warned for passivity. The warning only seemed to ignite her. She responded aggressively, producing a dominant finish to secure a 7-1 victory.

The quarterfinal against Asian under-23 medallist Nishu proved far more dramatic and controversial. Trailing 0-5 after nearly being pinned following a four-point throw, Vinesh appeared on the brink of elimination. Yet she refused to yield. Using every break in proceedings to recover her breath, she cleverly deployed a strategy of challenging decisions and utilising lengthy video reviews.

The contest was repeatedly interrupted by challenges, reviews and technical issues with the display screens. Tempers soon began to flare. After Vinesh executed a four-point throw and attempted a pin, her husband and coach Sombir Rathi, along with supporters, demanded that officials award the fall.

Officials eventually ruled that the referee had blown a "wrong whistle", denying the pin but allowing the bout to continue. Vinesh capitalised, taking a 6-5 lead after scoring two more points before eventually progressing.

The semifinal was fiercely contested. Vinesh fought relentlessly, countering attacks and staying within touching distance throughout. Once again, reviews and challenges punctuated the action. Meenakshi edged the contest 6-4. Later, Antim Panghal defeated Meenakshi 3-2 in a tense final to secure the 53kg berth.

India women's squad: Dipanshee (50kg), Antim Panghal (53kg), Manisha Bhanwala (57kg), Mansi Ahlawat (62kg), Nisha Dahiya (68kg) and Priyal Malik (76kg).

Unity Cup: India pay the penalty

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

India's campaign in the four-nation Unity Cup ended without a goal and, as many feared, at the bottom, after losing the third-place playoff by a solitary goal against Zimbabwe at The Valley, London, on Saturday.

The national football team was invited to London for the first time in 24 years. This was a depleted side, without seven players from Mohun Bagan and East Bengal defender Anwar Ali. But while India were outplayed by Jamaica in the opener,

FOOTBALL

they never looked at ease against Zimbabwe, whose goal came from Dube Prince in the 33rd minute.

Zimbabwe's goal came from the spot. Tshuma Mongameli did well to back-heel the ball to Munetsi Marshall Nyasha inside the box, and before the striker could take aim, Farukh Choudhary crashed into him from behind. The referee awarded a penalty, which Prince converted by sending keeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu the wrong way.

KEMP FLOORS INDIA WITH ALL-ROUND SHOW

Bristol: England beat India by 26 runs in the second women's T20 International to level the three-match series 1-1 here on Saturday. Chasing 169 for a win, India managed 142 /9 in 20 overs,

CRICKET

with Yastika Bhatia top-scoring with 33 retired out. Opener Smriti Mandhana made 32.

For England, Freya Kemp produced an impressive all-round show as she grabbed two Indian wickets after her stunning 39 not out off just 13 balls earlier in the match. Charlie Dean and Lauren Bell also chipped in with another two wickets each.

Earlier, spinner Shree Charani returned impressive figures of 3 for 25 as India restricted England to 168 for 5. Besides Charani, Nandani Sharma (1/36) and Shreyanka Patil (1/29) were the other Indian wicket takers. **Brief scores: England: 168/5 in 20 overs** (Freya Kemp 39 n.o, Danni Wyatt-Hodge 29; Shree Charani 3-25). **India: 142/9 in 20 overs** (Smriti Mandhana 32, Yastika Bhatia retired out 33; Freya Kemp 2-15). PTI

DYES Hassan emerge champs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Syed Asif

JUBILANT: DYES Hassan players celebrate on Saturday

Bengaluru: DYES Hassan overcame DYES Kudige 3-2 in a hard-fought final to clinch the Hockey Karnataka Women's Sub-Junior title here on Saturday. Hassan were off to a strong start as they took the lead in the fourth minute through a field goal from Saraswathi HY. However, the Kudige girls responded in the

SUB-JUNIOR HOCKEY

10th minute when BS Deechamma levelled the scores.

The match continued at a competitive pace, with both sides creating opportunities but unable to convert them. Hassan regained the lead in the 21st minute when Aradhya MD beat the goalkeeper to sound the board. Kudige fought back, with Deechamma scoring her second goal in the 30th minute to again even the scores. With the game finely poised, GH Anushya stepped up for Hassan and scored the winner in the 42nd minute. Despite Kudige's best efforts, Hassan held firm till the final whistle to seal the victory.

In the battle for third place, SAI STC Madikeri secured a 3-0 win against Hockey Belgaum. **Results: Final:** DYES Hassan 3 (Saraswathi HY 8, Aradhya MD 21, GH Anushya 42) bt DYES Kudige 2 (BS Deechamma 10, 30); 3rd place: SAI STC Madikeri 3 (Neelamma NR 2, Matti Yadula Mythili 30, Golla Sai Bhavya 40) bt Hockey Belgaum 0. - **Jia Khosla**

Money Bags wins main event

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Money Bags, trained by Prasanna Kumar, came up tops in the Sir Visvesvaraya Memorial Trophy the main event at the races here on Saturday.

1.The Udhagamandalam Plate 1200M: A Great Buzz 1, Perfect Dream 2, Evolvita 3, Haniel 4, Not Run: Bhagya. 1-3/4l, 3-1/2l, 1-3/4l. T: 1:15.47. Tote: Rs 58 (W). 20, 11 (P). Fc: Rs 171. Q: Rs 65. Shp: Rs 27. Thp: Rs 49. Trinalla: Rs 1740 & 799. Exacta: Rs 3624 & 477.

2.The Chettinad Stud Plate 1600M: Miracle Star 1, Promiseofthefuture 2, Star Glory 3, Golden Thunder 4. 4l, 2l, 3/4l. T: 1:40.47. Tote: Rs 11 (W). 10, 12 (P). Fc: Rs 15. Q: Rs 16. Shp: Rs 14. Thp: Rs 26. Trinalla: Rs 43 & 41. Exacta: Rs 39 & 11. **3.The Elite Force Plate 1400M:** Knotty Emperor 1, Friedrich 2, Rampage 3, The Archer 4, 7-1/2l, 2-1/2l, 1-3/4l. T: 1:27.66. Tote: Rs 21 (W). 13, 19, 18 (P). Fc: Rs 153. Q: Rs 147. Shp: Rs 73. Thp: Rs 39. Trinalla: Rs 674 & 190. Exacta: Rs 1036 & 406.

4.The Marilingaiah Memorial Trophy 1200M: Splendid Dream 1, See The Light 2, Ziva 3, Refined Aggression 4, Not Run: Victoria Doresaani. 1/2l, 3-3/4l, Lnk. T: 1:14.19. Tote: Rs 71 (W). 18, 13, 31 (P). Fc: Rs 777. Q: Rs 184. Shp: Rs 53. Thp: Rs 44. Trinalla: Rs 5058 & 2787. Exacta: Rs 12462 & 4450.

5.The Sir M. Visvesvaraya Memorial Trophy 1400M: Money Bags 1, Efficacy 2, Rodney 3, Lux Aeterna 4. 7-1/4l, 3-3/4l, 2-1/4l. T: 1:25.66. Tote: Rs 15 (W). 13, 10 (P). Fc: Rs 48. Q: Rs 24. Shp: Rs 27. Thp: Rs 24. Trinalla: Rs 48 & 18. Exacta: Rs 68 & 44. **6.The Romantic Dance Plate 1400M:** Prince of Wales 1, Alamgir 2, Lena 3, Bulletproof 4, 2-1/2l, Ns, 2-1/4l. T: 1:27.99. Tote: Rs 51 (W). 14, 15, 14 (P). Fc: Rs 129. Q: Rs 64. Shp: Rs 34. Thp: Rs 46. Trinalla: Rs 481 & 227. Exacta: Rs 727 & 260. **7.The Prince Khartoum Plate 1200M:** Stravinsky 1, Corinthian 2, Windcleaver 3, Flash R. 4, All Ran: 3-3/4l, 3-1/4l, Ns. T: 1:15.31. Tote: Rs 21 (W). 13, 16, 32 (P). Fc: Rs 77. Q: Rs 43. Shp: Rs 37. Thp: Rs 88. Trinalla: Rs 1402 & 854. Exacta: Rs 4194 & 1112.

Jackpot : Rs 7990.
Runner up: Rs 853.
Mini Jackpot : Rs 3262.
First Treble : Rs 301.
Second Treble : Rs 218.

Buckingham for Karnataka Juvenile Million

Bengaluru: The top Mumbai colt, Buckingham is poised to win the Karnataka Juvenile Million, the main event at the summer races on Sunday. Trevor Patel, who had a fall on Saturday, is likely to be replaced by jockey Antony Raj.

1. The Endorsement Plate 1600M: Duke Of Buckingham 1, Asterion 2.
2. The Aureole Time Plate (Div II) 1200M: Khazana 1, Amazing Storm 2.
3. The World No-Tobacco Day Plate (Div II) 1300M: Steely Challenge 1, Assurances 2.
4. The SG Madhukar Memorial Trophy 1400M: Zayyan 1, Sunshine 2.
5. Bangalore Turf Club Karnataka Juvenile Million (Grade III) 1400M: Buckingham 1, D' Artagnan 2.
6. The Aureole Time Plate (Div. I) 1200M: Dasadyu 1, White Secret 2.
7. The World No-Tobacco Day Plate (Div. I) 1300M: Valiant Stream 1, Agrador 2.
Day's best: Buckingham.
Jackpot : 3,4,5,6 & 7.
Mini Jackpot : 4,5,6 & 7.
First Treble : 2,3 & 4.
Second Treble : 5,6 & 7. TNN

Sakshi's ton powers Swastic

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Swastic Union CC (1) cruised to a 263-run win against Cavaliers CC, riding on skipper Sakshi's explosive ton (130, 55 balls, 22 x4, 3x6) the KSCA Senior Women's T20 tournament here recently. Sakshi's knocked powered Swastic to 315/4 in 20 overs. In response, Cavaliers were bundled out for 52 with Vaishnavi Bhovi taking three wickets.

KSCA SENIOR WOMEN T20

Brief scores: Swastic Union CC (1): 315/4 in 20 overs (Andrea Lobo 36, Sakshi 130, Advika 53, Vaishnavi Hunashyala 36; Sanjana Gaikwad 2-57) **bt Cavaliers CC: 52 in 17.2 overs** (Falguni Hiremath 28; Kavitha 2-15, Vaishnavi Bhovi 3-14). **Engrades CC: 120/7 in 20 overs** (Vanditha G 40, Cheruku Aadhya 2-34) **lost to Whirlwind Cricketers: 123/4 in 17.2 overs** (Vaidehi Kamath 26, Saividya R 49; Sinchana Kumar 2-12, Antara A Kalyanpur 2-30). **City Gymkhana: 139/8 in 20 overs** (Ankitha G 42, Sanjana U 27, Divya Gnanananda 45; Reethu 3-21, Ananya Hegde 3-15) **lost to Friends Union CC (1): 143/1 in 11.1 overs** (Shubha S 68, Shishira 54). **Jayanagar United Cricketers: 73/8 in 20 overs** (Aarushi Sutar 2-11) **lost to Sir Syed Cricketers: 77/2 in 12.4 overs** (Kashvi Shekar 39, Disha KV 25). **Bangalore Occasionals: 104/4 in 20 overs** (Anushree Samagond 51) **lost to Cambridge CC: 107/1 in 14.4 overs** (Tanvi Raj 48, Sarah Gabbur 47). **Palar SC, Kolar: 283/4 in 20 overs** (Prerana 49, Inchara CU 115 (50b; 13x4; 6x6), Vrinda 59, BG Tejashwini 43) **bt Bharath CC: 37 in 13.5 overs** (BG Tejashwini 3-6, Prathyusha Challuru 2-3). **Wilson Garden CC: 164/4 in 20 overs** (Aradhana Heblikar 102 (102b; 15x4; 2x6), Sanjana Mishra 26; Novinaa 2-18) **bt Minerva CC: 135/5 in 20 overs** (Vachanashree 61, Hamsinee Arun 36; Triakashi Singh 2-10). **Vultures CC: 171/4 in 20 overs** (Aadya 70, Pooja Kumari 63) **bt Mount Joy CC: 76/9 in 20 overs** (Vidya G 24). **Modern CC: 120/5 in 20 overs** (Dyuthi Randhish 32; Nakshathra 2-13) **bt Vijaya CC (Malur): 118/5 in 20 overs** (Vaishnavi 57, Tanmai SK 25). **Swastic Union CC (2): 147/5 in 20 overs** (Yashika Gowda 65, Deeksha CD 31; Fancy Mahanta 2-21) **bt Jawans CC: 98/5 in 20 overs** (Jennifer Francis 30, Zoya Khazi 49; Subhra Majumder 3-16).

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FINAL FACE-OFF
GT vs RCB

PLAYED 9

Won by GT 4 (44.44%) | Won by RCB 5 (55.56%)

TV TIME 7:30 PM
STAR SPORTS / JIOHOTSTAR

LAST FIVE MATCHES
GT W L W L W
RCB W L W W W

VENUE: AHMEDABAD

ODDS
GT 12/10 | RCB 8/10

IPL 2026

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—Vikram Solanki | GT director of cricket

TITANS TAKE ON CHAMPIONS

Captains Gill, Patidar Chase Legacy A… Gujarat And RCB Eye 2nd IPL Crown

Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: There were many broken hearts when Rajasthan Royals went down by seven wickets to Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 2 at New Chandigarh on Friday night, denying fans the chance to see cricket's new sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi in his first IPL final. Yet, few will deny that Sunday night's summit clash promises a compelling contest between the two best and most consistent teams of IPL 2026.

Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), chasing a second successive title, take on 2022 winners and hosts Gujarat Titans at the Narendra Modi Stadium. Beyond the trophy, the stakes are larger: the winner could well stamp themselves as the IPL's next dominant force, much like Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians did in their eras. RCB, in particular, will aim to become just the third side after those two heavyweights to win back-to-back titles.

On paper, this is an evenly poised contest. Both teams are led by captains in sparkling form, ea… knocking on the doors of Indi… T20I side while inspiring their … ams with contrasting yet effect… leadership styles. Rajat Patida… calm, understated approach h… brought stability to RCB across t… seasons, and he now stands on t… brink of joining MS Dhoni and R… hit Sharma as the only captains to defend an IPL crown.

The 32-year-old Madhya Pradesh batter has backed his leadership with outstanding numbers, amassing 486 runs in 14 matches at an average of 44.18 and a staggering strike rate of 196.76, including five fifties. Long known for his prowess against spin, Patidar has added another dimension this season by dismantling pace attacks with equal ease.

The other captain, Shubman Gill, appears determined to reclaim his place in India's T20 setup.

The elegant opener has been in sublime touch, piling up 722 runs in 15 matches at 48.13, with a strike rate of 163.71. Both skippers arrive in the final on the back of defining knocks: Patidar's blistering 93 off 33 balls powered RCB to a 92-run win over GT in Qualifier 1, while Gill's majestic 104 off 53 steered the Titans past Rajasthan Royals with authority in Qualifier 2.

Gill and opening partner Sai Sudharsan may not bludgeon attacks in the manner of some of the league's younger dashers, but their method is no less effective. Their fluent stroke-play and ability to bat deep were on full display in their 167-run stand while chasing 215 in Qualifier 2.

Sudharsan, with 710 runs at an average of 47.33 and a strike rate of 159, is also in the running for the Orange Cap, alongside Gill.

With Jos Buttler (507 runs) providing solidity at No. 3, Gujarat Titans boast a top order that rarely misfires. RCB, however, can match that firepower with a formidable batting line-up featuring Virat Kohli, Devdutt Padikkal, Tim David, Venkatesh Iyer and Patidar. The champions have consistently notched 200-plus scores, aided in part by batting-friendly surfaces but underpinned by fearless intent.

The contest could ultimately hinge on the bowlers, and both teams possess potent pace attacks. RCB's biggest strengths lie in the experience and incisiveness of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood. Bhuvneshwar has been exceptional, picking up 26 wickets at 18.15 with an economy of 8.00, while Hazlewood's ability to strike early makes him a crucial weapon against GT's top order. Supported by Rasikh Salam and allrounder Krunal Pandya, RCB's attack has both depth and variety.

Gujarat Titans boast of the most complete bowling unit in the tournament. Kagiso Rabada leads the pack with 28 wickets, consistently touching 150 kmph. Rashid Khan, Jason Holder and Prasidh Krishna provide able support. Home advantage could play a role, with Titans winning five of seven games in Ahmedabad this season. Yet, RCB enter the final slightly ahead, having enjoyed more rest and the confidence of winning the title at this venue last year.

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Yogesh Chawda

FINAL TOUCHES: Rajat Patidar bats in the nets in Ahmedabad on Saturday

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2 Hundreds have been scored for GT vs RCB—an unbeaten 104 by Shubman Gill off 52 balls in Bengaluru on May 21, 2023 and 100 off 58 balls by Sai Sudharsan, also in Bengaluru, on April 24, 2026.
—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

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Patidar plays down talk of India T20 selection

Gaurav.Gupta
@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: Rajat Patidar's blistering IPL-2026 campaign has inevitably put him in the national spotlight, but the Royal Challengers Bengaluru skipper insists his focus remains firmly on the final. The 32-year-old has amassed 486 runs in 14 matches at an average of 44.18 and a staggering strike rate of 196.76, with five fifties, leading RCB to another title clash.

His standout effort came in Qualifier 1 against the Gujarat Titans, where he hammered a 33-ball 93 studded with nine sixes, powering RCB to a crushing 92-run win.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

It was among the defining innings of the season.

With the selectors set to pick squads for the upcoming T20 tours of Ireland and England, Patidar is firmly in contention for a middle-order spot. Yet, the Madhya Pradesh captain brushed aside talk of an India call-up ahead of Sunday's final at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

"I'm not looking forward to any selection regarding India," Patidar said at the pre-final press conference on Saturday. He was equally guarded when asked if he saw himself captaining India in the format. "I don't visualise being the T20 captain of India. Every captain wants to win trophies. Last year we did it, but this is a new season. You can't keep talking about the past. You have to live in the present and do your best to win the title," he said, underlining RCB's clear-headed approach. On team combination, Patidar remained noncommittal about the return of explosive England opener Phil Salt, who has rejoined the squad after recovering from injury. Salt had scored 202 runs in six matches at a strike rate of 168.33 before his departure. "He's with the side, doing drills and batting. We haven't decided yet. We'll see what the medical staff says and also assess the conditions," Patidar added.

Expecting a tight contest against the Gujarat Titans, Patidar said both teams were evenly matched. "Both sides have done really well throughout the tournament. It will be exciting and challenging," he noted.

RCB's bowling unit has been a pillar of their success, with Bhuvneshwar Kumar spearheading the attack. The veteran pacer has claimed 26 wickets in 15 matches at 18.15 while maintaining an economy of 8.00, consistently troubling batters with movement.

However, Patidar was quick to highlight the impact of Jammu & Kashmir pacer Rasikh Salam Dar, who has chipped in with 16 wickets in 11 matches. "Even when you have top bowlers like Bhuvi and Hazlewood, you need support. The way Rasikh has contributed, especially with breakthroughs, has been crucial. You can't win with just one or two bowlers," he said.

'Sooryavanshi will get India call-up soon'

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New Chandigarh: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is "more than ready" for an India call-up after his spectacular performance in the IPL, according to Rajasthan Royals head coach and director of cricket Kumar Sangakkara.

The 15-year-old finished a sensational breakout tournament on Friday night with a counter-attacking 47-ball 96 against Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 2.

"You never know if anyone's ready until they play. And with everything Vaibhav's shown against some of the best bowlers in the world, I think he's more than ready to take on any challenge that you throw at him," Sangakkara said, adding, "I'm sure he'll get that call-up very, very soon."

The left-hander smashed 776 runs across 16 matches at 48.5 and disrupted standard T20 opening blueprints by maintaining a staggering strike-rate of 237.3, registering five half-centuries and a century. His prolific run-scoring also saw him become the fastest batter in IPL history to complete 1,000 runs.

'SKY' future in doubt after Asiad snub

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Indian cricket board (BCCI) may well be preparing for a leadership transition in the T20I team. Current captain Suryakumar Yadav, who led India to a T20 World Cup title in March, doesn't feature in the 30-man long list given to Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for the Asian Games to be held in Aichi-Nagoya from Sept 19-Oct 4.

The selectors will give their 15-member squad for the event by the second week of June. **TOI** has learnt that it was pre-decided that the selectors would look at captaincy options when they were asked to prepare the long list for the Asian Games in Jan. Incidentally, 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was already shortlisted by then.

BCCI will also consult with the govt whether the first-choice T20I players are to be sent for the Asian Games. The cricket event starts on Sept 23 and the Indian team is slated to play three ODIs against West Indies at home from Sept 28, followed by five T20Is from Oct 6.

Except Surya and Shubman Gill, the long list contains all the big names including Jasprit Bumrah. Gill is supposed to lead the ODI team against West Indies. India are the defending champions. Ruturaj Gaikwad had led a young Indian team to an Asian Games gold medal in Hangzhou in 2023. Gaikwad too has been ignored for this edition. The last date for making changes to the list was May 14.

As for Surya's future, the selectors are likely to meet next week before India's one-off Test against Afghanistan to pick the T20I and ODI teams for India's tour of Ireland and England in June-July. The selectors may also finalise the Asian Games squad besides picking the India 'A' team for a first-class tour of Sri Lanka before India play a two-Test series there. Surya's future will be in focus in the meeting. Surya has been woefully out of form in international cricket for two years and has struggled in the IPL this year.

"The selectors are looking at possible captaincy options before taking a call on Surya. While Shreyas Iyer and Sanju Samson appear to be contenders, vice-captain Axar Patel's name has also been floated to do the job before the selectors zero down on a clear successor. It will also be seen if Surya will be given another tour to rediscover his touch as a player. The next selection meeting will make things clear," a source told **TOI**.

Longlist for Asian Games: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson (wk), Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Prasidh Krishna, Varun Chakravarthy, Anukul Roy, Ayush Badoni, , Harsh Dubey, Dhruv Jurel, Khaleel Ahmed, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ravi Bishnoi, Shahbaz Ahmed, Shivam Dube, Vipraj Nigam Nigam, Harshit Rana, Yash Thakur, Washington Sundar.

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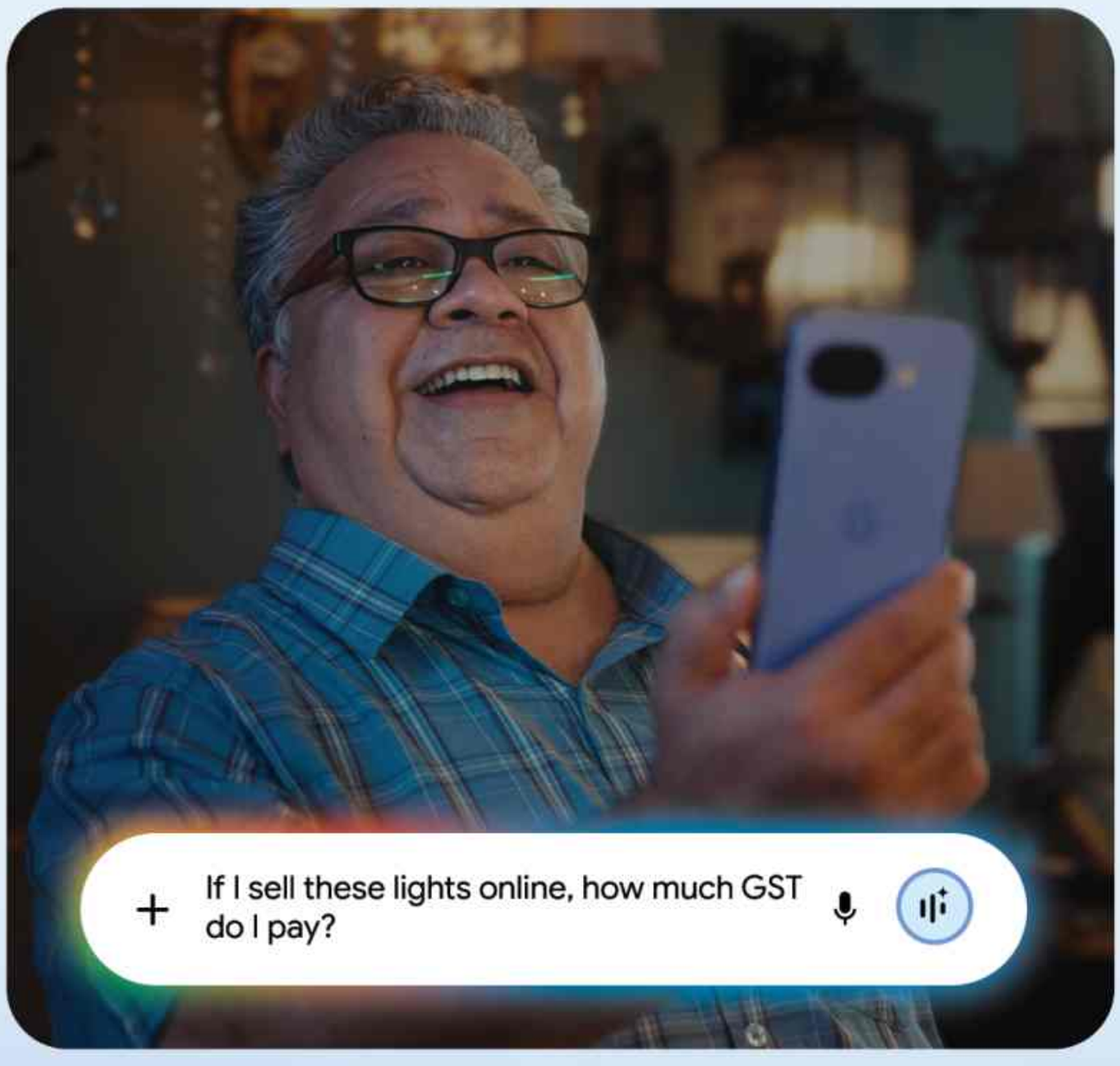

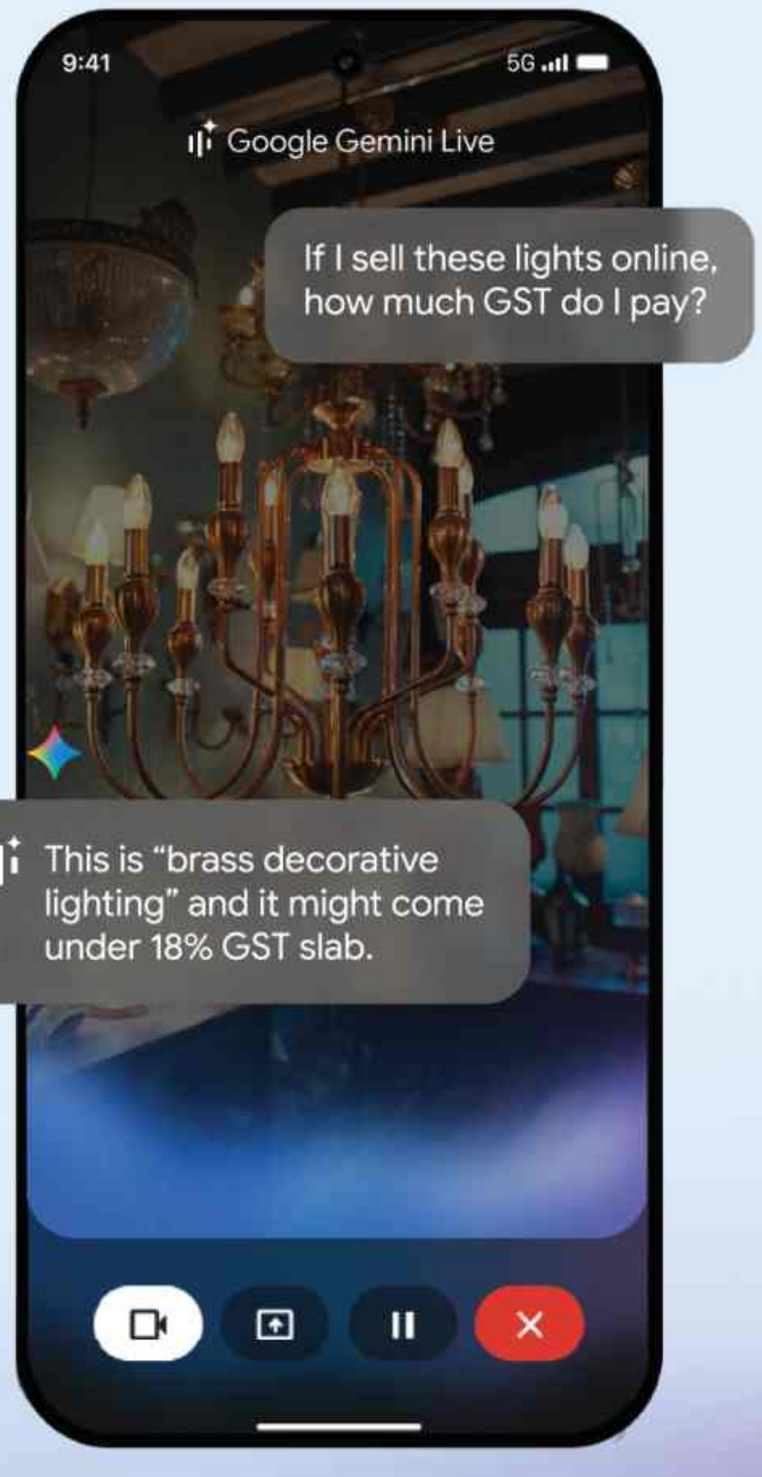

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Liverpool sack manager Arne Slot, saying the club is seeking a 'change of direction', after a disastrous defence of their Premier League title

SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA

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